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rown Prince, Princess to visit Japan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will pay an official working risit to Japan from May 21 to 25, the Japanese embassy in Amman said in a statement made by the foreign ministry in Tokyo During their stay in Japan, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will make a state call on Their Majesties he Emperor and Empress of Japan. Prince Hassan and Diana visit Japan," which is to be held between May 22-27 to introduce various aspects of Jordan to the Japanese people. the Sick introduce various aspects of Jordan to the Japanese property of the Sick introduce various aspects of Jordan to the Japanese property of the Sick in The government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of the Japanese Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal HONG and Princess Sarvath, and the Johnan week in supplied the sain's Diam will be held under their patronage which will further their patronage which will further their patronage which will further their Diam between Japan to Diam the statement and Princess Sarvath, and the Jordan Week in Japan which Patients and heard the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," the statement

Arab political daily p عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية ،الراي، جوردان تايمز يومية سيأس Mahathir in landslide election win

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's National Front coalitinn, buoyed of a climate of unpre-cedented economic growth and soaring incomes, was Wednesday returned to office in a landslide general election victory, partial results confirmed. With most of the seats declared, the 14-party National Front had taken 130 seats in the 192-member lower parliamentary house. The opposition ethnic-Chinese based Democratic Action Party (DAP) had seven seats and the Christian-based Parti Bersam Sabah (PBS) eight. While a simple majority is needed to form the government, Mr. Mahathir had sought the strict of the seats to ensure the proposition would be unable to two-thirds of the seats to ensure the apposition would be unable to block constitutional amendments. With Mr. Mahathir making good a promise to crush the opposition, the National Front saw its share of the popular vote soar to more than 63 per cent from 53.4 per cent in the 1990 polls. The National Front was also making headway in northern Kelantan state. Unofficial returns showed the front leading in two parliamentary and four state seats after failing to win in a single ward in the state previously (see page 5).

Volume 19 Number 5902

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 26, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Iraqi assembly rejects oil deal

British Colon BAGHDAD (Agencies) Chines by India on Tuesday issued its Princess less infinite control of a U.N. offer to cancer less infinite money for food and Chines of the motel infinite money for a control of the motel infinite money for a control of the motel infinite money for a control of the motel infinite motel in

The parliament, enumber of the parliament of the parliame The rive days of discussion, and the said the moposal which the Security best was such the proposal which the Security proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal was leaven to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal was leaven to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the Security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the security council adopted April 14 to the proposal which the securit sion of Kuwait.

sein's government nau re-ing expenses in jection" of Resolution 986 in the state which called for strict moni-prince Charles toring of up to \$1 hillion in oil The ing a toring of up to 3. In months.

Stering States every denounced the Deputies as a "violation of Control of the care and urged the Securanans and instead to "unabroad" to pay for humanita-

nian supplies.

Most of Iraq's 18 million

people cannot afford hasic
in an economy hit by tems in an economy hit by skyrocketing inflation. Foreign Minister Mobam-

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CONTACT WAS

mad Al Sahaf told lawmakers when they began meeting on Monday that the resolution was a "political decision which has nothing to do with so-called humanitarian aid to

Iraq."
He said that if Iraq accepted the offer it would create a "dangerous precedence" preventing a total lifting of the oil and trade sanc-

Russian and European diplomats said the resolution did not preclude a lifting of the sanctions once Iraq has complied with U.N. Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Under the resolution backed hy Russia, France and other countries lobbying for a total end to the embargo. proceeds from the oil sales would be put in an escrow account controlled by U.N. Secretary General Boutros

Around \$130 million to \$150 million would have been set aside to provide for huma-nitarian aid to Kurds in northern Iraq while \$300 million would be granted to the compensation fund for

The hulk of Iraq's oil ex-

pumped through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline running between Iraq and Turkey with the rest of the crude to be shipped from the Iraqi port of Mina Al Bakr.

Independent inspection agents appointed by Dr. Ghali were to oversee the oil shipments and report to the United Nations on the quan-

"The vote is unanimous to turn down the resolution," Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Ghanim Aziz Ghadouri said after a three-hour session attended by foreign reporters.

This resolution is not hinding on Iraq as it violates the legal norms in the U.N. Charter... infringes on Iraqi sovereignty and flagrantly interferes in the essence of the internal authority," the parliament said in a statement.

Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad told the 250-member parliament the resolution would not have eased suffering because most proceeds would have gone for war reparations and other U.N.related costs." He said the measure did not account for fees, estimated at \$170 mil-

lion every three months. He said Iraq restored ahout 80 per cent of the Gulf war damage to its oil installations and was operating re-fineries at 90 per cent ol

pre-Gulf war capacity.

He also said lraq did not feel secure about exporting most of its oil through a Turkish pipeline, as the U.N. plan required, since part of the pipeline was under Iraqi Kurdish rebel control and another part under Turkish

Kurd guerrillas.

He said Iraq had repaired the twin pipeline to Turkey over its territory and believed it could go into full operation shorlty after the U.N. removed curbs on oil exports. Mr. Jawad said Iraq would object to any attempt by Turkey to increase transit fees on

He said Iraq had other outlets at the head of the Gulf with export capacity of 1.8 million barrels per day (hpd). "After removal of sanctions, the capacity can be boosted to about three million hpd just from southern oil terminals," he said,

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 3.14 million hpd should be increased to 3.6 million in light of world demand, but it would not be easy for Iraq to regain its

'The price will slump at the heginning, creating some chaos in the first two or three weeks, and then stabilise,"

He said Iraq's oil policy was under President Sad-dam's supervision. "We shall not allow too high a price and too low rates." Mr. Jawad denied that Iraq was export-ing oil through Turkey or the Gulf in defiance of U.N. trade sanctions.

He put Iraq's overall export capacity at two million

Mr. Jawad also said President Saddam had given Russia the chance to develop two giant oilfields in southern Iraq if it provided "definite time limits for the implementation.

His ministry was discussing with visiting Russian Energy

(Continued on page 7)

New details emerge in Oklahoma probe OKLAHOMA (Agencies) at about 150 in the bomh As residents of the city **Farmers** attack on a federal office continued hurying their dead, militants'

tigations (FBI) Tuesday was · : : : : : drawing a better, more deitaled sketch of the stillin issing second bombing sus-..... pect, sources said, as new evidence emerged about jailed suspect Timothy McVeigh.
Mankills self The death toll in the Okla-homa City blast rose to 87

Russianion Tuesday, as this stunned city birthday game prepared for a new round of funerals. A city official said the

ibly trapped in the rubble left by the truckbomb explosion is using and could go higher than 200. "I don't know the exact

number," Ray Blakeney of the Oklahoma City medical examiner's office said. "We still are thinking there is the resulter. probably in the area of 200 missing. But we are still getting reports in so it can vary." a with the appeals Previous estimates placed the number of missing people التعاليد والمدادة

By P.V. Vivekanand

by P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Depending on

the right components and

criterion of projects, a U.S.

government agency, the Overseas Private Investment

Corporation (OPIC), could

be one of the key financiers

of World arrangement has yet been

fighters to made for any of the projects.

off Australia according to Christopher

Finn executive vice-

an Amman symposium on ordan Rift Valley develop-

ment, said OPIC could ex-end financing as well as offer assurance for A

estments.

He said the preconditions or OPIC financing were:
The concerned project

AFF - And Mr Employers

Treasure Rift Valley.

the company of

manan saki

Section Planes

He leas and Airs

money ago

for the multi-hillion dollar

development of the Jordan

, Mr. Finn who is attending

huilding. Mr. Blakeney said the number is rising because families continue to report

missing relatives. "As late as yesterday (Monday) we were notified by three families who were missing loved ones and that was the first information that anyone had on these peo-

He said 86 bodies have been recovered, 13 of them children, and 72 have been identified.

ple," Mr. Blakeney said.

He urged anyone in Oklahoma or elsewhere who beheves they might have relatives missing in the bombing to contact Oklahoma City officials.

Meanwhile, rescuers burrowed feverishly through hundreds of tonnes of debris in a desperate race to find life in the wreckage of the federal building hit here in the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

private sector, i.e. 51 per cent

ownership by the private sec-

tor, which should have oper-

ational and administrative

- 25 per cent of the own-

ership should he American.

— The project should be able

to sustain itself and he able to

service its dues. This would

mean marketability and pro-

fitability of its output, re-

liability of production, etc.

ments," said Mr. Finn in an

informal hriefing for the

press on the fringes of the symposium on Jordan Rift

Valley development. "Nor

do we lend to the American

partner or the local partner in

the venture. We lend to the

hillion in 35 transactions in 20

countries and extended insur-

ance coverage of \$6 billion in

150 deals in the developing

OPIC financing is available

world, Mr. Finn said.

In 1994, OPIC lent \$1.8

project itself."

"We do not lend to govern-

control of the project.

potential source for

it emerged meanwhile that a chief suspect already charged with the carbomb attack was not talking to investigators appeared unmoved by the carnage he is accused of

"We know that the chances are very slim" of finding any survivors in the building demolished in the blast last Wednesday, said assistant fire chief Jon Hansen.

"Morale has changed. trying to remove victims as soon as we can so the families can have some peace," he told CNN. "We know the chance of finding a survivor is a miracle."

The governor of the southcentral state, Frank Keating, described the search effort as "like pulling a mountain apart with five-gallon buck-

charged

TWO AMERICAN farmers held as material witnesses in the bombing were charged Tuesday with conspiracy and firearms violations. The FBI ed a more detailed sketch of the second bombing suspect, and a motel manager in Kansas said a man resembling the sketch had stayed there two days before the bombing.

farmer, was charged with conspiring with his brother Terry and Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh to make explosive devices in Michigan, U.S. attorney Saul

Both brothers, known friends of McVeigh and reported to share his extreme right-wing views, have been held since last week as material witnesses to the Oklahoma bombing.

financing

requirements.

amend laws and regulations

to accommodate the OPIC

Israel is far ahead in priva-

tisation, while Jordan is in

the initial stages of privatising

entities like the Telecom-

munications Corporation, the

Jordan Electricity Authority

Mr. Finn said OPIC had

not designated any specific

amount of money for Jordan

Rift Valley projects. "It de-

pends on how quickly (inves-tors) move and how long it

would take (projects) to roll

out," he said, noting that

most of the projects involved

would take some time before

His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan told the Am-

man symposium on Monday

that "... the gestation period

of the best organised project

... will be in the neighbour-

hood of 18 months to two

(Continued on page 7)

actual implementation.

and Royal Jordanian.

(Continued on page 7)

Rift Valley provided that the

concerned projects meet the

the Trade and Development

Agency (TDA), another

U.S. institution controlled

directly by the White House

and which is sponsoring the

Amman symposium, was

closely connected with OPIC

tionship," he said, explaining

that the TDA, which helps

American commercial enter-

prises working ahroad, will

also assist concerned U.S.

firms to meet the OPIC re-

quirements by undertaking

preliminary studies and

advising them on how to en-

sure that the OPIC-desired

velop the private sector of the

countries where we operate."

said Mr. Finn. As such, he

said, the Jordanian and

Israeli governments, partners

in Jordan Rift Valley de-

Our mandate is to de-

elements are in place.

'We have a hip-to-hip rela-

activities.

Mr. Finn underlined that

requirements, he said.

Hamas vows revenge for death in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The militant group Hamas threatened Tuesday that Israel "will pay a very high price" after one of its activists died following an Israeli interrogation.

Human rights organisa tions and relatives charged that Abdul Samad Hassan Harizat, a 30-year-old handicapped man who stood only one metre tall, was tortured to death.

He died Tuesday at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. four days after his arrest in the West Bank town of Hebron by Israeli Shin Bet security agents.

In a leaflet reacting to the death, Hamas said: "The Islamic Resistance Movement considers the terrorist (Prime Minister Yîtzhak) Rabin and his gangs of kil-lers.... responsible for the martyrdom of Abdul Samad Hazirat.

"(They) will pay a very high price," it said. Hamas is the main group opposing the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace talks, and along with sister group Islamic Jihad has claimed a series of attacks that killed 65 Israelis

since October. Last week Israeli forces killed three Palestinians in an ambush near Hebron, and Israel has since announced the arrests of 14 others in

recent weeks. .Harizat supported Hamas and had been arrested be-

"It's clear he died under torture," said brother Abdullah told AFP. "He was not ill, but he had a weak constitution and would not have stood up to torture.'

The army spokesman remained silent on how Harizat, a computer programmer. sustained the injuries, "We fear he has been bad-

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan remembers Queen Mother on her first death anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Today marks the first anniversary of the death of Queen Zein, the Queen Mother. The Queen Mother is re-

membered for her pioneering work in laying the foundation for social and voluntary service in the Kingdom and for founding the first women's union in Jordan in 1944 and the women's branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in 1948. She also established the Um Al Hussein Orphanage in Amman. The late Queen Mother contributed a great deal to social and humanitarian services. The Queen Mother led Jordanian women's efforts to gain their rights as granted to

them by the Constitution.

The Queen Mother played a key role in the political development of the King-dom in the early 1950s and had lived through periods of crises when Jordan faced challenges, but led the



struggle in line with the principles of the Great

Crown Prince, EU team discuss ties, cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN --- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday received a European Union (EU) delegation which arrived here Monday evening to officially invite the Kingdom to participate in the Mediterranean conference which the EU will organise in Barcelona in November.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that Prince Hassan and the delegation, which is headed by Bernard Prague of France, discussed Jordan-EU relations, with Prince Hassan stressing the need to consolidate moderation in the region through, cooperation in the peace-

building process. Talks also dealt with plans for the development of the Middle East from the social, economic, political and

security perspectives. Petra said that Mr. Prague, who later met with acting Prime Minister Abdul Raou Al Rawabdeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki. stressed the need for making 1995 the year for cooperation in peace-huilding. During its meeting with Mr. Rawabdeh, the EU delegation discussed preparations for the Barcelona conference and the partnership

deals that EU is offering to its Mediterranean neighbours. The meeting also discussed the political declaration and the objectives of the Barcelona conference, which will hring together the EU members with I2 Mediterranean countries.

Petra said the acting prime minister expressed Jordan's appreciation of the European role in the area, stressing the Kingdom's interest in expanding cooperation with the Jordan looks forward to

cooperating with Europe in improving the social and economic conditions in the region in a way that would guarantee "social justice, democracy, freedom and re-spect for human rights," Petra quoted Mr. Rawabdeh as

telling the delegation. Mr. Rawahdeh and the EU delegation also held talks on a 5.16 billion European currency units EU financial aid package to the Mediterranean countries which will he announced in Barcelona if it is approved by the European summit in the French city of

Cannes in July. French Amhassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet has said that the package would offer grants to finance projects of regional nature, adding that the EU is discussing a proposal to have the European Investment Bank offer a similar amount of soft loans to countries that qualify to benefit from the package.

Mr. Bajolet said the partnership deals that the EU Is offering to its Mediterranean neighbours aim at eventually establishing free trade zone over a period of 15 years. This zone would he the largest in the world with a population of 800 million

The Barcelona conference will also discuss the idea of setting up a structure for security and cooperation in the Mediterranean in a way similar to the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in

Europe. France, Spain and Italy are the major force behind the push for more EU focus on the Mediterranean while Germany is more concerned with relations with former East European states

Muasher visits Orient House, affirms stand on Jerusalem

Dr. Muasher also said that

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jordan's new ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, paid a first visit to occupied Jerusalem on Tuesday and called for the eastern part of the Holy City to he returned to Arah sovereignty.

"I am very happy and proud to visit Arah Jeru-salem." Amhassador Muasher said at the de facto Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters called Orient House in East Jerusalem.

"It is part of occupied Arah land and should return to Arah sovereignty," he said after talks with West Bank Palestinian leaders including Faisal Husseini and former spokeswoman Hanan Ashra-

Dr. Muasher met for an hour with Mr. Husseini, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, at the Orient House and the two strolled through the city under the gaze of Israeli border policemen.

Dr. Muasher said it was "happy day... we are proud to visit Arah Jerusalem and discuss many issues with my Palestinian brothers."

"I hope there will be further meetings to discuss the peace process," Mr. Husseini told reporters.

Earlier Tuesday, Dr. Mnasher said at a meeting with foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv, where he is posted, that "East Jerusalem is part of occupied Arah territories."

"East Jerusalem needs to go back to Arah sovereign-Apparently seeking to

allay Palestinian concerns that Jordan was competing with them over Jerusalem, Dr. Muasher said the city was "the sole responsibility of the

Jordanian support for the peace treaty with the Jewish state was at best lukewarm. "Most Jordanian support is lukewarm or guarded at best," he told Israel's Foreign Press Association in his first

public address after two weeks in the country. Jordanians have adopted a "wait and see attitude" while peace proved elusive with the Palestinians, Syrians and

Lehanese. "The core conflict remains unsolved: the Palestinians,'

he said. "The challenge that lies ahead of us is to have this government-to-government peace trickled down to the

average citizen." "Jordan is fully committed to implementing the peace treaty. However, we have to be realistic and acknowledge that the vast majority of Jordanians link peace with Israel with the Palestinian

track," he explained. Jordanians wanted a solntion for Palestinian refugees in their country, the return of East Jerusalem to Arah sovereignty and the removal of Jewish settlements, he

said.

"We seek a very warm peace with Israel," Dr. Muasher said, but added. "We are witnessing a very difficult transition period between making peace to build-

ing peace."
"Building peace requires money. We need the help of the international community. We cannot do it alone."

Dr. Muasher noted that Jordanians expected peace to produce an immediate windfall, but the country was still reeling from massive debts and could not finance major projects.

"Ît's very important in our

very frank. We differ greatly over Jerusalem,

Muasher said. Israel's right-wing opposition Likud Party renewed calls for the closure of Orient House and the far right-wing Tsomet Party also protested over the talks.

'Jordan and its ambassador must be made to understand that Israel will permit no infringement on its sovereignty over Jerusalem," said Tsomet deputy Moshe

"I don't understand the fuss about my going to East Jerusalem, to Orient House or any other house." Dr. Muasher said.

"I'm not an envoy to the Palestinians. My visit is not official, but it is going to be the first of several visits I'm going to make to East Jerusalem." he vowed. Dr. Muasher said Jordan

no longer had any political

claim to the city, which the

Palestinians want as capital of their own state. . Mr. Husseini said he had discussed the peace process

and negotiations on autonomy with the envoy. In the past, Israel has objected to foreign officials' visits to the Orient House, argning the Palestinian autonomy government was using the compound as a de

facto foreign ministry violating the Israel-PLO autonomy accord which limits Palestinian activity to autonomous Gaza and

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Shek said Israel did not object to Dr. Muasher's visit, however, "as long as things being discussed are not about the Palestinian Authority."

(Continued on page 7)

OPIC financing is available for developing the Jordan Jumped area water ourt overturns m inistry suspension of weekly

Marsochydore By Sa'eda Kilani War II in part Description Was Il in the process to the Jordan Times salvage eyen percent to the Jordan Times

around in a little art of Justice on Tuesday delian oked a decision do like polymer of Justice on Tuesday y urrector of Press and Pub-

المالة الد الما skly Hawadeth Al Sa'ah months reputible failing to appoint a fully redired chief editor. 1331 coss north 2. This is discontant to Hanna Nidhistory with attorney for the plain-BON HISTORY STREET II We don't the court ruled that while house to be appeared to be appeared the chief editor the appeared to be appears to the paper was all and a press and the paper was all and

ruary to suspend the

Mr. Niddeh said there was no provision in the Press and Publications Law that gives the authority to the PPD director to ban or suspend the publication of any news-

"An administrative officer has no authority or power to issue an administrative order unless such power is invested by law," Mr. Mr. Niddeh said. "There is no provision in the Press and Publications Law that grants the PPD director such powers."

Mr. Amin said the court's ruling was fair. "The judicial authority is

our only referee in all cases,"

Mr. Amin said. "We still have not received the court's raling, hat we will respect and honour it and we will

implement it to the letter." On Feb. 26, two weeklies. Hawadeth Al Şa'ah and Al Bilad, were suspended on the premise that their chief editors were not full members of (JPA) since they had not

the Jordan Press Association taken the oath. According to the Press and Publications Law, chief editors of daily and weekly publications should be JPA members. Chief editors or poutical party newspapers are not co-

vered under this provision.

Mr. Amin decided to sus-

pend the two publications until they rectify their situation in accordance with the law." In a letter he sent at the time to the Al Dustour printing press where the two weeklies are regularly printed, Mr. Amin called for stopping the publication of the weeklies "until their chief editors take the oath or until they nominate new chief editors who meet the necessary

conditions." In the past two months, publishers of both weeklies nominated other chief editors but all of them were rejected. The publisher of Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, Riad Al Hroub, contested Mr. Amin's decision in court, and Navef Tourah, Al Bilad's publisher, followed suit two weeks later. Last Sunday, both chief editors took the oath along

allegedly publishing sensational news, "obsene" photos ticular. It claims a circulation of 50.000.

with 32 other JPA members. Both weeklies have come under the attack of JPA for and fabricated news. Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, licensed last June, primarily tackles social issues, crimes in par-

Al Bilad, a political and social weekly, was licensed in June 1993 and publishers say it has a circulation of 60,000

WASHINGTON (R) — Arab-American and Muslim leaders called on Monday for a meeting with President Bill Clinton to warn against a proposed counterterrorist hill they fear would trample civil rights, especially those of their communities.

At a news conference after meeting top Justice Department officials, the leaders thanked Mr. Clinton for having urged Americans early on to avoid tarring any ethnic or religious group with the bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City that killed at least 81 people last week.

"President Clinton, you ought to meet with Arab-Americans now," James Zogby, president of the Arab-American Institute. a policy research group, said "We want to tell you we appreciate what you did, but we also want to be a part of helping to shape policy that will affect our lives too."

The White House did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment on the request for a meeting with

Mr. Zogby and his colleagues fear that the Oklahoma bombing may speed passage of Mr. Clinton's omnibus counterterrorism act of 1995, which they regard as targeting Arab and Muslim Americans for political

The hill, now moving through Congress, would let the government use evidence from secret sources in deportation proceedings for aliens suspected of terrorist involvement

It would also ban fundraising in the United States for groups the president deems dangerous and grant the FBI broader power to wire-tap suspects.

Mr. Zogby said that the

legislation, which Mr. Clinton urged on Sunday he adopted quickly, would have led to terrible civil rights abuses against Arah Americans had it been law at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing.

"We would have had mass deportations. We would have had roundups," he said. He said that Arah-Americans constituted "the weak links in the civil liherties chaint" because of prejudice and negative stereotypes reinforced by

Abdul Rahman Al Amoudi, executive director of the American Muslim Council, said U.S. Muslims were in effect held 'hostage' for 60 hours or so after the bombing, until the arrest of Timothy McVeigh, a 27-yearold Gulf war soldier and rightwing extremist charged

He cited what he described as the case of an Arab woman he said had had a miscarriage last Thursday in Oklahoma City as an angry mob sur-rounded her home. Full details of the alleged incident were not immediately avail-

Other speakers deplored what they called the taunting of Arab-American school children and "callous and careless media" reports that they said had fanned ethnic

Khalil Jahshan, chairman of the Council of President of National Arah-American Organisations, hit out at supposed terrorism experts who had been quick to suggest a possible Middle East link to

the outrage. "We have paid a heavy price as a result of this heinous act," he said. "What do we have to do as Arab-Americans to be fully accepted as fellow American citizens in this country?"

Diseases threaten displaced Kurds

their homes when Turkish troops crossed into northern Iraq face outbreaks of serious disease because of water shortages, aid: workers

Food and hlankets are also desperately needed for the 7,000 to 10,000 Kurds registered as displaced by the United Nations and living in tents, a U.N. officer added.

Jamal Nakshbandi, a Kurd working for the Swedish aid agency Qandil, drove an ambulance Monday to the remote mountainous Berwari Bala region east of the border town of Zakho for the first time since more than 30,000 Turkish troops poured into Kurdish-held northern Iraq on March 20.

He found infections such as scabies on a large scale among the displaced families. And he warned: "The people have no water facilities. If they don't or can't return to their villages before summer, more severe disease such as malaria and typhoid will

occur. Women and children living in a cluster of tents near Batufa, 30 kilometres east of Zakho, clustered round Mr. Nakshhandi's ambulance when he arrived. .

The 198 people living there are from a nearby village called Shanke. "We fled more than two weeks ago because of the Turkish shelling," said Gulan Mohammad as she waited for Nakshbandi to care for ber crying baby.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

Les Jameaux du Bout de Monde

17:39 Taratara 19:00 News in French

The Bold and the Bea

23:10 Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

Mary of Nazareth Church

15:00 16:90 16:30 17:00

19:16

... The Flintstones

. E=M6

. G.P.

News in English

Dandellion Dead

Breakman's World
Movies, Games, and Videos

..... Amazing Stories

Ankara has pledged not to harm civilians during its offensive against Turkish Kurd separatists from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). But Iraqi Kurd villagers have repeatedly reported air raids, shelling and

lootings of their homes. Samad Khan, head of the U.N. Iraq relief coordination unit, said in Dohuk earlier this week that the agency had 1,301 families or up to 10,000 people registered for aid.

Five hundred blankets are in store in Dohuk "but the organisations don't dare to start with few blankets because they fear turmoil if they don't have enough when going ont to distribute them," Mr. Khan said.

Another problem is food, he said. "Even if we get the necessary funding we won't be able to distribute food before the middle of June because there isn't any in our store and it takes some time before we can organise it from Turkey."

Some villagers have started to go back to their homes after Turkish troops left the Berwari Bala region.

But those thousands of troops remaining between Zakho and Batufa do still frighten the people and pre-vent them from feeling safe enough to return," said a senior aid worker in Zakho.

Ankara says 490 PKK rebels have been killed so far in its military operation and 13 have been captured. Fiftyeight Turkish soldiers have

Joseph Church Tel. 624590. murch of the Assumeiation Tel.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel.

Evangelical Latheran Church Tel:

824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Austron.

WEATHER

Moderate weather conditions

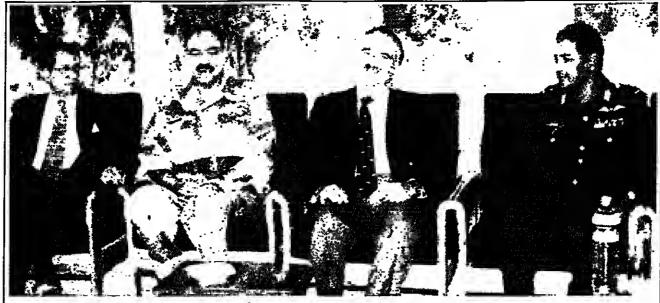
will prevail with temperatures around average and clouds appear-ing at low altitudes. Winds will be

orthwesterly moderate to active

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PAKISTANI DELEGATION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday receives a delegation representing the Pakistani War College headed by Brigadier Zulfikar Shah. Prince Hassan reviewed at the meeting the situation in the region and Jordanian-Pakistani ties and means of boosting them. The meeting was attended by acting Chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Mohammad Al Huwayyan, the King's military advisor Major-General Himeidi Al Fayez, the commander of the Royal War College, Pakistani Ambass Naqvi and the Pakistani military attache in Amman (Armed

Iraq approves visit by wives of 2 Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq has approved visits by the wives of two imprisoned Americans, but U.S. efforts to have a Polish diplomat see them remain stymied, the U.S. State Department said

Monday. Iraq has notified Poland, intermediary for the United States in dealing with Baghdad, that visas will be issued as soon as the wives arrive in Amman, department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"This obviously is a hopeful sign," he said. But he criticised Iraq's refusal to permit Ryszard Krystosik, a Polish diplomat, to visit the two jailed Americans.

He said that one of the Americans, David Daliberti, 41, was experiencing chest pains and that he and William Barloon, 39, should be released immediately for humanitarian reasons,

The two Americans weresentenced to eight years in prison after crossing the border from Knwait five weeks ago in what Washington called a harmless mistake. In Kuwait, Mr. Barloon's

wife Linda said she was notified Monday that the State Department obtained "clearance" for the visit but refused... to say when she would go.

"I am very pleased that the Iraqi government has granted us the visas," Mrs. Barloon told the Associated Press. "I'm very much looking for-

seeing my husband. I'm hopeful to be allowed to meet

with Iraqi officials."
Mr. Daliberti's wife Kathy, who has maintained communications with the press via the Internet, said she is in Jacksonville, Florida, prepar-

ing to go to her husband.
"Any announcement regarding a trip by me to Iraq will be posted here, first. when I do have plans to go and if it is appropriate to announce the trip in advance," she said in her latest posting, dated Saturday.

Iraq officially broke relations with the United States on Feb. 8, 1991, during the U.S.-led air war to punish Iraq's attempt to annex Kuwait by force, Land forces of a U.N. coalition joining more than 30 countries invaded at the end of that month and drove the Iragis out in four days:

Mr. Krystosik has tried to see the Americans daily. Last week, he was informed that his weekly visits had been cut back to every two weeks. He last visited the Americans' almost two weeks ago.

The Polish diplomat will accompany the wives throughout their stay in Iraq. The women will be housed in the old U.S. embassy, which is under Polish control. .. Iraq blames the United

States for blocking efforts to ease U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq in-

EU: Turkey must make solid moves on reform

BRUSSELS (R) — Turkey must quickly show real progress on economic and political reforms if it is to persuade the Enropean Parliament to agree to a customs union with the European Union (EU). the EU's foreign affairs commissioner said on Monday.

"It is fair to say that it is not a foregone conclusion that the customs union will enter into force next Janu-Hans van den Broek told a seminar on EU relations with Turkey.

"Snccess will require vigorous action not only by the Turkish government but also certainly by the grand national assembly to pass the economic legislation and the constitutional and legal changes needed to ensure approval of our ambitious joint project by the European Parliament," he said.

The parliament has threatened to veto the customs union plan, agreed in principle by EU and Turkish foreign ministers early last month, unless Ankara cleans up its act on human rights.

Mr. Van den Broek said he hoped the key elements of Turkey's programme of con-stitutional and legal reforms could be put through the grand national assembly before its summer recess as a way of proving the country's good intentions.

"The European Parliament will be asked, in the early the customs union. But parliament's assent will only be forthcoming if its members feel that Turkey and the union are committed to the same fundamental values." he said.

In carefully measures words, the commissioner also urged Turkey to pull its troops out of northern Iraq where they have been hunt-ing fighters from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) to the general outgrage of the international community.

The continual attacks by the PKK, which have claimed countless innocent lives, are utterly reprehensible... but it is clear that the problems in the south-east of the country cannot be solved by military means alone," Mr. Van den Brock said.

"I therefore expect the troop withdrawals to be completed as quickly as possible," he added,

But he stressed that the customs union could not be allowed to founder because Turkey and the EU were important trading partners, the country was a model of a secular government in the Muslim World and as a NATO ally it was in a key geographic position in the Mediterranean, linking Europe to Asia.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that the customs union fails," he said. "Turkey and the European Union are vital

damages people's faith in the

Prime Minister Tansu Cil-

ler, eager to draw Turkey

closer to the EU, has prom-

ised a "democratisation pack-

The U.S. State Depart-

ment said the human rights

situation in Turkey worsened significantly in 1994, a view

echoed by Amnesty Interna-

It said the banned Kurdish

Labour Party (PKK) and the

Islamic Hizbollah were be-

hind some "missing" cases.

But it accused the govern-

ment of only infrequently

prosecuting security officers

for "extrajudicial killings,

Turkey's human rights

association is so alarmed at

the rising numbers of missing

that it has issued leaflets tell-

ing people what to do if they

name, telephone number and

address to the people in the

street," the leaflet says.

"Shout and call out your

are seized on the streets.

torture and other abuses."

age" of reforms.

security forces and justice."

Wiretapping exposes Israeli media war

TEL AVIV (AP) - The edition of Israel's two leading dailies are being held by police on suspicion on ordering illegal wiretaps against each other, and possibly senior government and military officials, as part of a no-holds-harred circulation

Dozens of police on Monday swept through the headquarters of Yediot Ahronot, Israel's leading daily, carting away crates of documents and detaining publisher Arnon Mozes, editor-in-chief Moshe Vardi and his deputy Ruti Ben-Ari for question-

Ofer Nimrodi, editor-inchief of Yediot's main competitor. Maariv, has been under arrest since Saturday on suspicion of illegal wire-

tapping.
"It's a black day for journalism," said Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni Monday.

She said she hoped the crackdown would lead to be wider understanding that "not everything is permitted — hugging, photographing, infringement on the private domain.'

Although ordering wiretape is punishable hy up to three years in prison, jail sentences are rarely imposed by a judiciary traditionally lenient on the issue.

The arrests climaxed a scandal that broke a year ago when police began investigating private detectives Yaacov Tsur and Rafi Friedan, who have since been indicted for tapping the lines of leading journalists and officials.

Using ultramodern technology, they are believed to have tapped hundreds of telephone, fax and cellular phone lines ranging from President Ezer Weizman's to those of leading husiness figures and even the Shin Bet security

Their Israeli-made highfrequency computerised scanner, valued at \$250,000 and designed for military use, was able to lock in on cellnlar phone lines and decode fax

Police sources, speaking anonymously, said this week that Mr. Tsur had agreed to testify that Mr. Nimrodi was a client and that he had also tried to huy his silence after the investigation began.

The sources said police susrediot and Maariv used Tsur's Agam Company as well as other detectives, to spy on each other - neither aware of the

competitor's operations. Another detective, 7 Laufer, was arrested Mand and charged with spying on Maariv on behalf of Yedior

The freewheeling tabloids account for a combined three-fourths of the Hebrew daily newspaper market _ with estimated circulation of 300,000 for Yediot and 150,000 for Maariy.

In recent years, they have waged an increasingly aggressive circulation war, giving : away cars to readers, reporting on each other's manage. rial embarrassments and competing for journalists. Maariv also adopted

Yediot's tabloid format and red-ink banner headlines, and in recent months front pages were often virtually identical, promoting speculation of spying.

Amos Schocken, publisher

of the highbrow Haaretz daily, called on police to do "everything in their power to get to the truth."

Mr. Vardi, the Yediot editor, arrived at the national serious crimes division headquarters near Tel Aviv clutching a nylon bag containing clothes, a toothbrush and sandwiches.

"I'm sorry you've been waiting in the scorching sun on my account," Mr. Vardi told reporters as he emerged from a police car.

Mr. Nimrodi was arrested Saturday night at Ben Gurion international airport as he prepared to go to Zurich. On Sunday, a magistrate's court ordered him held for a week while the investigation continued. Under Israel's system, a suspect can be detained up to 30 days before formal charges are filed.

Mr. Nimrodi, 35, is the son of Yaacov Nimrodi, an arms dealer who was Israel's military attache in Iran in the 1960s and subsequently made a fortune in trade between Israel and the Shah of Iran's regime. The Nimrodi family bought Maariv three years. ago after the death of its previous owner, British media tycoon Robert Max-

Moshe Neghi, Maariv's legal commentator, said if the allegations against Mr. Nimrodi were proven correct he would have to resign whatever the legal consequences.

Mr. Neghi said the exces-ses highlighted the dangers inherent in a highly centralised press now virtually controlled by three men - Mr. Nimrodi, Mr. Mozes and Mr.

Libya lashes Israel, U.S. on nuclear treaty

Libya on Monday lashed out at Israel for its nuclear weapons programme and the United States for supporting it while Arab states were put under sanctions.

In an address to a conference to extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Libya's U.N. ambassador. Mohammad Azwai, said his country could not agree to an extension of the treaty unless Israeli was forced to renounce its nuclear weapons programme, which he estimated had more than 200 bombs. "Our position should not

be interpreted as an ahandonment of the aims and purposes of the treaty," he

What makes the whole situation more offensive is that (Israel) enjoys the support and encouragement of the world's only superpower. which has at the same time

UNITED NATIONS (R) -- imposed on us an economic, military and education blockade and is trying to deny us the right even to possess knives and stones and deceive us to accept a peace similar to that between the wolf and the lamb."

The Security Council has imposed an air, arms and diplomatic embargo as well as a ban on some oil-related equipment against Lihya for not handing over suspects allegedly involved in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner. Mr. Azwai said the West turned a blind eye to Israel's nuclear programme, but

strictly monitored Arab countries such as Libya. They raise hell when an Arab country huilds a small chemical or pharmaceutical factory," he said, with "accusations of possessing chemical and hiological

weapons although they know

full well the falsehood of

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Another name added to list of 'missing' in Turkey ANKARA (R) — Hasan Reuters after being freed "We helieve that the Ocak locked up his clothing from 11 days in detention. the state both on a national and international scale and

shop in Istanbul's Laleli area and called his sister to say he. would bny some fish and be home for the Kurdish new year festival..

That was on March 21. His family has not seen him since. Mr. Ocak had suddenly joined the ranks of Turkey's "missing" — hundreds of people who have disappeared without trace, some believed killed by the security forces while in detention.

But the Interior Ministry. responding to a campaign by his family, friends, human rights groups and the Turkish media to find him, said on Sunday he was not detained

by security forces. The last person known to have seen him alive is an extremely thin and pale Suna Yasar. She says they were both tortured in the Aksaray detention centre in Istanhul.

"I was tortured several times so I do not exactly remember the date... I was being taken back to my cell. I felt someone near me. I stole a glance under my hlindfold and saw Hasan," she told

''Hasan was semiconscious and limp," Ms. Yasar said as she and others

staged a hunger strike in Ankara on Ocak's behalf. Another prisoner, Baki Duzgun, released a statement through his lawyer saying he saw Ocak in Aksaray detention centre on March 23, that he had head injuries and had

apparently been tortured. Mr. Ocak disappeared during a security crackdown after 17 people died in rioting which flared in Istanbul when unknown gunmen fired on coffee shops of the minority Alevi liberal Muslim sect. His family are Kurdish Alevis who migrated from eastern

Turkey. Ms. Yasar was seized on March 25 in Istanbul's Gazi district in a swoop on alleged provocateurs behind the riot-

The president of Turkey's human rights association, Akin birdal, fears Ocak is dead and is pressing for information.

The association lists 328 cases of missing people in

majority of these people have been killed by the security forces or police," Mr. Birdal told Reuters.

Thirty-two people, including Ocak, are known to have disappeared in Istanbul in March, he said. Diplomats said Ocak's case

had a significance beyond the agony of his family as the European Parliament is demanding that Ankara improve its human rights record before it ratifies a key customs pact between Turkey and the European Union

Frieder Birzele, interior minister of the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, raised Ocak's case with Turkish Human Rights Minister Algan Hacaloglu, who said he was investigating. The Turkish cabinet dis-

cussed the case on Friday. "The government has a political responsibility to hring this matter to light, state minister Ziya Halis told the cabinet.

"This kind of incident...

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 16 /31 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22 Aqaba 29, Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

> USEFUL. TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

MMAN:	
r. Salah A`i 'Usud	849028
. Rizq Abu Zinah	804205
. Issum Al Asmar	800504
. Yousef Rashed	896301
as pharmacy	661917
rdows pharmacy	778336
Asema pharmacy	637055
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Salam pharmacy	626720
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ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985000 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 **EMERGENCIES** Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Highway Police Traffic Police 63032 Price Complaints Water and Sewerage Amman Municipality Telephone Information (directory assistance) ...
Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone lordan Electricity Authority 815615

RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Hussein Medical Conno Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 University Hospital 845845 Al-Mussher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamie, Abdali 666127/37 . 777101/3 Army,šMarka 891611/15 . 674155 Amal Hospital .. The Arab Centre for Heart and

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oneen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Aqaba (AJ) **66:**45 ... 99:35

Dubai, Abu Dhabi RJ) ... Larnaca RJ 16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:35 London RJ Frankfurt [R1] Istanbul RJ 18:20 18:55 . 19:18 Madrid, Geneva [K] 19:10 . Toronto, Montreal RJ Rome [R] . Cairo (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Karachi, Abu Dhabi (Pi

. Algiers (AH) ... Beirut (BA) ... Beirut (ME) 17:45 Amsterdam (KI DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Rome (RJ) dam, New York (RJ) Berlin, London (RJ) 18:30 Tunis, Casablanca (R.) Istanbul (RJ Colombo (RI) Aqaba, Cairo (RI) -. Beirut (RJ) Riyadh (RJ) 21:98 21:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. America ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damaces 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damaces 7:30 a.m. every Sanday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 700/ 508 Carrot ... 200/120 230/ 120 Grape Leaves eso / 700 200 / 120 800 / 550 250 / 150 280 / 150 150/ 100 Onion (dry) 450/320 350 / 250 240/ 150 String Beans

becoming easterly moderate in the afternoon. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Special Surgery Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Home News tapping expose



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li media war (AP) - The

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday distri-bates a diploma to one of the 254 nurses tute of Specialised Nursing and the Clinical Instructor Programme of the Ministry and midwives who graduated from the of Health (Photo by Crystal) Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery, Insti-

Queen graduates 254 nurses, midwives; opens calligraphy exhibition

Amor Scholar Ames Scholar of the highbor has compared at the Palace of Culture, a counter; at a filled the palace of Culture, a counter of the palace of Culture, a counter of the first of Specialised Nursing and Midwifery, Institute of Specialised Nursing and Midwifery, established in 1978, have graduated 3,272 nurses and midwives.

The Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery, established in 1978, have graduated 3,272 nurses and midwives.

The Clinical Instructor Programme at the Palace of Culture, a Royal Court statement said.

Oneen Noor, who has patronised this annual event of the nighton has attronised this annual event of the nighton has attronised the ministry of the nighton has attronised to the ministry of the nighton has a counter of the night ha

Catching a miss by patronised this annual event since 1978, distributed diplomas to 254 graduates and since 1978 to seven outin som late awarded gifts to seven outstanding graduates, the statement said.

The Oueen commended

from a police of the students on their achievements and the Ministry of the students on their achievements and the Ministry of the students on their achievements and the Ministry of the students on the students on their achievements and the Ministry of the students of t Mr. National Real ments, and the Ministry of Health on the diverse medicinternational ments and enciclities flourishing in al specialities flourishing in Jordan under its care.

Sunday a magness On behalf of the graudates, Imad Husani thanked Queen Noor for her continuous supt small charge are dards. At the ceremony Ni. Narod 521 Romaldo Bettini, the Italian M: Narod 2 by ambassador to Jordan, ambassador to Jordan, emphasised the importance of the 30 years of cooperation of the so years of and Italy in between Jordan and Italy in between Jordan and developthe realm of social the feath of social the ment and commended the ment and commended the Clinical Instructor Program-The Same Re, which is part of an Italian that health project that also in-

nursing development units in the Ministry of Health's hospitals at Bashir, Karak, Salt. Irhid and Zarqa and has graduated 76 instructors in clinical medicine.

The institute of Specialised Nursing Studies, founded in 1988 in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and United States Agency for Inter-national Development (USAID), offers two main programmes: teachers training and a primary health care

By 1995, the total number of the graduates of both programmes was 125. The institute also gives courses in other specialities, from which 240 nurses have benefited.

Queen Noor, accompanied hy Her Royal Highness Princess Majda, was received hy Minister of Health Aref Batayneh, Secertary-Geoeral of the Ministry of Health Hani Oweiss, and the directors of the oursing and midwifery colleges.

Later that day, Queen Noor, who is a Patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, opened an exhibition of contemporary calligraphy at the National Museum of Fine Arts, which was founded by the society in 1980.

The exhibition, which features the work of artists from the Islamic world, will run for one month.

The Queen concluded her visit by opening the National Museum's gift shop which was majoly funded by a grant from USAID. The gift shop sells works of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Silsal, Burgan and Hazem Zubi as well as art books, posters and greeting cards.

Queen Noor was received by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, the president of the Royal Society of Fines Arts, and the society's board members.

The Queen was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal. The opening was attended also by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Majda, Princess Rajwa Bint Ali and Princess Nafa'a

Celebrating the nature of Dana through hand-crafted silver jewellery . The same was

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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At: 150 250 Std.

AMMAN - For architect, artist and nature conserva-tionist Amar Khammash and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Natore (RSCN) celebrating the environment is by no means confined to Earth Week.

Committed to preserving the rich geology, flora, fauna and archaeology of Jordan's wondrous Dana region, their muclear treat aim is oot only to promote awareness and appreciation, but the socio-economic development of the area's local population as well.

All of these ambitions are coming together with a current exhibition of silver jewellery at Darat Al Fanun in Jabal Weibdeh.

The exhibition includes finely crafted silver pieces artistically displayed in a recreated natural environment which will surely conjure images of Dana's exquisite

ages of Dana's exquisite beauty.

Delicate silver pins, inspired by the spired by the wide variety of plants and trees found in the area, are nestled in dried branches from the region. Looking at the ornate pieces. designed by Mr. Kharmmash Later Line (1) and executed by Jordanian Committee Table silvermith, Mahmoud Sa'oudi, popular, oleander and oak leaves are just a few of the regioo's treasures which are immediately iden-

tifiable to the visitor. In addition, the silver re-productions of just a handful of Dana's nearly 600 plant species - some of which are in danger of extinction incorporates real fragments of nature such as almonds. acorns and Dana stones.

The Dana stone, as it is eferred to by those familiar with the nature reserve there, a semi-precions stone uniane to the region.

MARKET profesh, the stone, while turtural blend of three or four

We call it Dana stone cause we want to make Te to pin this special stone d this collection to the rein and the reserves so it can identified with the convation ethic," Mr. Khamesh said. "The next line of hellery will feature sliced na stooes," he said. Although Mr. Khammash

actively involved in the k of the RSCN and its orts to preserve Dana, he ahly admits that be was one of the first to discovts precious diversity. Te attributes briogiog

a to public prominence



Hand-crafted silver brooch by Amar Khammash for "Fragments of Nature" exhibition

to Anis Muasher, president and founder of the RSCN.

"It was really his encounter with the landscapes and his knowledge of the area which hrought attention to the semi-precious stooes and the natural diversity Dana," be

The silver exhibition highlighting the "Fragments of Nature" is just the first step in a much larger project. Jewellery project is laying the foundation for the productioo of hand-crafted pieces in silver inspired by geology, archaeology and the wildlife of Dana.

Currently, plans are under way for the opening of a local workshop and training programme to teach the women of Dana to reproduce the region's natural beauty through

silver work. The project, supported by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) io cooperation with the RSCN. is headed by ecologist Chris

"In the past, conservation philosophy was seen to clash and in some cases did clash which local development. This marks a fresh beginning of the exact opposite," said Mr. Khammash. "That's because 10 years ago conservation never looked at human development. Man is important and man's well-being is important to nature. Comhining craft to the conservatioo of nature is the glue that

According to Rebecca Sal-

makes it all work.

ti, manager of the Wadi Dana Socio-Economic Project, all proceeds from the Darat Al Fanun exhibition will go back to the project for the purchase of materials and training. Mrs. Salti, who was forma-

ove in the early success of the Bani Hamida weaving project, is also actively involved in getting other income generating projects in Dana off the ground. Projects include other handicrafts as well as organic

farming such as local fruit drying hy solar technique. Project for the purchase of materials and training. Tapping in on the increase

in tourism to the south of the country was another impetus to start the project. "We are filling in the gap in local crafts," said Mr. Khammash."After all, crafts are a vital component of developing the tourism industry. People want to come to Jordan and take something home with them," be explained.

In this way, the people of Dana can be partners in the tourism industry. "Why silver? I don't believe in gold," adds Mr. Khammash, pointiog out that silver is a cheap mineral. "We are selling ideas, not material. If you melt this down," he says, bolding one of his dainty silver leaves, "you've lost 90 per cent of its value. Its worth

is all in the design. The exhibition of "Fragments of Nature" will be oo display from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Darat Al Funun until noon on May 2.

Jordan ready to assist PNA in bilateral transport and communications affairs

By Jennifer Hamarneh Iordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — At the first meetiog over transport and communications between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) emphasis was placed on seeking direct cooperation between the two sides, without involving Israel, a Jordanian official present at Tuesday's meeting said.

The official told the Jordan Times that as transport and communications affairs between the PNA and Jordan were the business of these two parties alone, Israel had no inrisdiction in involving itself in such matters. Thus, he said, the meeting took up issues of direct coordination hetween Jordan and the

At the meeting, headed on the Jordanian side hy Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporatioo Dureid Mahasneh, and on the PNA side hy Director of Transport Mahmoud

Qawasmi, Dr. Mahasneh said Jordan was fully prepared to offer assistance to the PNA in transport affairs and would set up facilities for the passage of goods and travellers between Jordao and the Palestinian laods.

The Ports Corporation chief said hrotherly relations make it incumbent oo Jordan to move towards promoting smooth and unencumbered transport between the two sides because of their common interests. Dr. Mahasneh told the

Jordan Times that the development of related regulations was necessary be-cause unol today, no reg-ulations on transport between the two sides have existed. He cited as examples the issuance of drivers' licences and the passage of trucks from either side to encourage trade as areas requiring some form of regulatory supervision. Dr. Mahasneh added that at a



Jordanian Ports Corporation Director (second right) Tuesday head their respec-General Dureid Mahaspeh (centre left) tive teams at a meeting to discuss transtor of Transport Mahmoud Qawasmi (Petra photo)

and Palestinian National Authority Direc- port and communications cooperation either side.

later stage, discussions will take up other transportrelated issues such as aviation and mariome affairs. At the meeting Mr. Qawasmi said his team was

hoping to ensure facilities

for trade and transit between the two hanks of the Jordan River and cooperation in the field of meteorology and the movement of tourist huses transporting visitors to and from

The two parties created suh-committees which framework for a land transport agreement between the two countries.

University ends inquiry into campus clashes

Those responsible will be penalised severely — official

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investigations hy the University of Jordan administration into the April 5 clashes at the university's campus in which dozens of studeots were injured concluded Tuesday, and uni-versity officials said tough measures would he taken against the perpetrators of the incident.

More than 110 students were questioned by the com-mittee appointed by the university administration following the clashes. The results of the continittee's inquiries will be announced soon, a university official said.

The university clashes be-tween students of Salti and Circassian origin left more than 20 students injured and. was followed a week later hy smaller hrawl in which three students were injured. Efforts by community leaders to solve the problem failed. Meanwhile, sources at the Court of Appeal Tuesday said that the court's investigations into the same clashes will be over in the next few

arrive on

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra)

— Israeli Arabs heading for

Mecca for this year's pilgrim-

age Tuesday arrived at the South Shuneh Pilgrims Cen-

tre and were welcomed hy

Rafiq Khatib, director of

the Ministry of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs' Department

responsible for Al Aqsa Mos-

que, said the government had

made arrangements to host the 1,700 travellers at the

pilgrims city set up in Ghor Nimrien within the South

Mr. Kbatih, who was

among the officials welcom-

ing the pilgrims, said that 56

air-conditioned huses were

made available to the pil-

grims aloog with a religious

guide to escort them to Mec-

Noting that the Israeli

Arabs were to have arrived

earlier than Tuesday, Mr.

Khatib said that the delay

was the result of obstacles

and difficulties encountered

in securing visas for the pil-

grims from the Saudi Arabian

Meanwhile the Ministry of

Awgaf and Islamic Affairs

said Tuesday that it was orga-

nising a farewell ceremony

Wednesday to see off Jorda-

nian pilgrims travelling by

laod to Saudi Arabia for the

Minister of Awgaf and

Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam

Al Abbadi will head Jorda-

nian officials in hidding

farewell to the pilgrims.

embassy in Amman.

way to

Mecca

Jordanian officials.

Shunch district.

ca and to Jordan.

days. The court became involved fullowing allegations that persons other than Uni-Israeli **Arabs**

versity of Jordan students were involved in the hrawl.

According to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the prosecutor general of Sweileh has questioned dozens of people suspected of involvement in the university clashes.

"We are conducting secret investigations and questioning individuals we suspect may have been involved in the university clashes," the source said.

He added that the prosecutor general has been questioning witnesses as well as suspects, and it will take few days before the investigations

The source however declined comment on whether any suspects were apprehended by the authorities in connection with the

"At this time we cannot reveal any facts until our investigations are over," the source said adding that some recent newspaper reports regarding the apprehension of individuals was inaccurate.

"The information published in some newspapers concerning the number of people detained was not specific, and we cannot release any figures until the questioning is completed," said the

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Tuesday attends a sports festival for the handicapped organised hy the Young Women's Muslim Association. To

the Princess' left are His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda (Petra

Princess Sarvath attends YWMA sports festival for the handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sar-vath Al Hassan Tuesday attended a sports festival for the handicapped organised by the Young Women's Mus-lim Association (YWMA) at the headquarters of the

Jordanian Sports Federation. Princess Sarvath watched several events and competitions by the young athletes and distributed medals and trophies to the winning

His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain, delivered an address at the outset of the festival, paying tribute to the Young Women's Muslim Association's special educa-tion services for the rehabilitation of handicapped chil-

Ghusun Qareh, director of the YWMA Centre for Spe-

Gallery.

ceremony thanking Princess Sarvath for patronising the work of the centre over the past 20 years. Mrs. Qarch also expressed appreciation to the Japanese government's cononued financial assistance to the programme.

The amhassadors of Pakistan and Japan, Ali Naqvi and Yuji Ikeda, were among the invited guests at the fesoval.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabie press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- The entitled "On the Buses" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- * Film entitled "Convoy" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

CONCERT

Concert by Tomas Bohorquez and Victor Angel Gil in cooperation with the Jordan Music Academy (playing violonchelo and piano) at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

☆ Poetry recital by Ghassan Zaqtan, Abdul Qadir Al Husui, Ali Ameri, Jiryes Samawi, and Ahmad Hijazi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURE

* Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Towards a Better Understanding of the Health of Gums and Teeth" by dentist Abdul Fattah Al Bustani at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

JEWELLERY DISPLAY

An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at

EXHIBITION

Exhibition of painting by Lebanese artist Karim Al Hage at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. * Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art

☆ Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French

★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinholt at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter.Continental Hotel. * Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhabia at

Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Founda-

★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat
Al Funum. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab

Yemeni police team visits PSD.

AMMAN (Petra) - Public Security Department (PSD) Assistant Director for Operations and Planning Major-General Najib Batayneh Tuesday received a Yemeni police delegation and told its members Jordan was ready to help the Yemeni police force upgrade its performance. Maj,-Gen. Batayneh said Jordan stands ready to offer expertise to the Yemeni police force and to exchange training programmes with it. Director of the Yemeni Immigration and Travel Documents Department Colonel Abdullah Al Bishtawi, who is beading the delegation, said the team's visit to Jordan aims to benefit from the advanced Jordanian experience in police work, programmes used to combat crimes and drugtrafficking and to regulate residency permits and border crossings.

CONDOLENCES OPEN

Condolence book opens at U.S. Embassy for Victims of Oklahoma City bombing

In memorial of the victims who died and were injured in the recent Oklahoma City bombing, a condolence book will be open at U.S. Embassy in Abdoun, from 0900 - 1600 in the USIS American Centre entrance from Wednesday, April 26 through Wednesday May 3, 1995

Chirac wants to meet Balladur

PARIS (R) — Conservative French prresidential candidate Jacques Chirac, in a conciliatory gesture aimed at uniting the divided right, agreed Tuesday to meet his defeated fellow Gaullist rival, Prime Minister Edouard Bal-

His campaign spokesman Francois Baroin told reporters Mr. Chirac "will be happy to meet the prime minister.... as soon as possible to discuss ways of barring the road to the Socialist candi-

Relations hetween Mr. Chirac and Mr. balladur have been icy for months since it became clear that the prime minister, who owed his appointment in 1993 to the Paris mayor's support, would run against him for president.

They have not met privately for months, exchanging tense handshakes and smalltalk on the rare occasions when their public duties forced them to appear

together.
Mr. Balladur made the first move, endorsing Mr. Chirac unreservedly for the May 7 run-off against Socialist Lionel Jospin as soon as the results of the first round hecame known Sunday night.

TELL HENER TO SELECTE THE SEARCH CONTROL OF THE CONTROL OF THE SEARCH SE

Mr. Baroin told a news conference that some Balladur supporters might take part in Chirac rallies, adding: There are no longer Balladuriens and Chiraquiens: today there are only people who identify with the coalition and support Jacques

The rival camps in France's presidential election vied for the votes of extreme-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen Tuesday while insisting they would make no deal with his anti-

Sri Lanka

mounts

against

rebels

offensive

COLOMBI (AFP) — Elite

police commandos launched

Tamil Tiger rebels in eastern

Sri Lanka Tuesday as security

forces hraced for more

attacks in the absence of

fresh peace moves, officials

Special Task Force (STF)

commandos advanced to-

wards a key jungle base of

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in

Ampara district but there

were no immediate reports of

casualties, a military official

He said several limited

scale operations were also

being launched elsewhere in

order to regain the advantage

the army had lost during a

three-month truce from

which the Tigers withdrew on

Wednesday and resumed

with the (truce) agreement.

Now we will try to get back lost ground," the official

He said a group of about 30

to 40 Tigers launched a pre-

dawn attack against an army

camp in eastern Batticaloa

district but troops were able

to beat if off without suffer-

In another clash in the is-

land's north, troops amhushed a group of Tigers,

killed one and recovered a

T-56 antomatic rifle and

three grenades, the official

said adding that the LTTE

-had killed two civilians in the

The Tigera hlew up a

bridge in the northwestern

Chettikulam region cutting

off the main road link to

the death toll to 73 in re-

newed fighting which erupted after the LTTE pulled out of

the truce agreed to on Jan. 8

and began attacking security

forces in Tamil-dominated

northern and eastern regions.

The Tigers are leading a

guerrilla campaign to estab-

lish an independent home-

land for Sri Lanka's two mil-

lion Tamil minority. More

than 30,000 people have been

killed during their 23 year old

Defence sources said the

military's move to shift its

main operational headquar-

ters closer to the battle zone

over the weekend was an

indication that more fighting

The latest violence took

territory they held.

ing casualties.

their separatist war.

Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, surprise leader after last Sunday's first ballot, said the left had to win hack a popular electorate that registered its concerns hy voting

for Le Pen. At a rally in the southern town of Valence Monday night, Mr. Jospin described Le Pen voters as "men and women who should be with

He added: "To ensure that there are not two Frances, we have to unite people... we will have to make proposals addressed to all the French

Praised unusually by Mr. Le Pen Monday as honest and respectable, the Socialist candidate said citizens should have closer protection from police to counter crime, a major concern of Front vo-

ters along with immigration. Hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua made a naked pitch for the National Front vote hy urging conservative candidate Jacques Chirac to propose partial proportional representation

for parliamentary elections. The measure, which Mr. Chirac has not so far advocated, is a key Le Pen demand that could give his party a central role in national political life, where it has little power despite his 15 per cent of last Sunday's vote.

Mr. Pasqua, who switched allegiance to Mr. Chirac after his own candidate, Mr. Balladur, was eliminated, vaunted his own measures to restrict immigration and the granting

of French citizenship. 'France wants to he governed on the right," Mr. PasD'Estaing that France wanted to be governed in the

When Jean-Marie Le Pen scores 15 per cent, there is a political problem and it must be resolved," Mr. Pasqua

But two senior Chirac supporters, National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin and Enterprise Minister Alain Madelin, insisted Tuesday that the Gaullist candidate would not change his campaign message to seduce the far-right.

"There is no wink to the National Front," Mr. Seguin

Tension between the Gaullists and the National Front erupted into violence in a television studio - hut off camera - on Monday night when the Gaullist mayor of the Paris suhurb of Levallois-Perret, Patrick Balkany, slapped National Front politician Jean-Yves Le Gallou in the

Mr. Le Gallou had earlier referred in an angry dehate to allegations of corruption at the regional housing authorwhich Mr. Balkany heads. Mr. Le Gallou said he would file a complaint to the justice authorities. Mr. Balkany said he got what he deserved.

Mr. Jospin and Mr. Chirac agreed to a televised debate on May 2, five days hefore the run-off to find a successor to Socialist Francois Mitterrand, the CSA hroadcasting watchdog said.

Mr. Jospin was first to hit the campaign trail after polling 23.3 per cent to Mr. Chirac's 20.8, He acknow-

President Valery Giscard favourite to win the May 7 run-off hut said the momentum was now on his side.

Despite buoyant opinion poll predictions, RPR politicians have cautioned that victory for Mr. Chirac in the final May 7 run-off round is far from certain.

Mr. Seguin said on television that "if we (in the party) do not do what we have to do for Jacques Chirac, victory for Lionel Jospin is quite

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe ruled out any electoral pact with the National Front. saying that "that issue is long since cut and dried."

'Mr. Le Pen has made his choice. He hates Jacques Chirac and has shown admiration" for Mr. Jospin,

Mr. Juppe added. Mr. Seguin, meanwhile, said that if Mr. Jospin became president, "he would. be elected by the National Front, with all the consequences that implies.

Mr. Le Pen's political constituency is far more complex than commonly assumed, and includes a significant element of traditionally left-wing, mainly former Communist voters.

The director for French think tank, Pascal Perrineau, said that 35 per cent of Le Pen's electorate came from the unemployed and that 23 per cent were working class. In an interview Tuesday with the financial daily Trihune Desfosses, Mr. Per-

third strategic arms treaty, START III, Russians had to rineau said Mr. Chirac's supbe sure there would be no port in the same sectors was new arms race in weapons of 12 per cent and 18 per cent, indicating that Le Pen's He said his government electorate could split he-tween left and right in the also needed assurances that the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty would not be undera defence system against short-to-medium range mis-

Kozyrev warns U.S. against

short-range missile plan

French Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin sa-

lutes supporters in the southern town of

Valence during his first campaign meeting

after the first round of elections. Mr. Jospin.

NEW YORK (AFP) — Rus-

sian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Tuesday that a

U.S. short-range missile de-

fence system could slow prog-

ress on disarmament agree-

ments and undermine the

In an interview published in Tnesday's New York

Times, Mr. Kozyrev voiced

concern with moves in Con-

gress and the White House to

continue research into an en-

hanced anti-missile system

capable of destroying short-

range weapons.

He said that hefore

Washington and Moscow

could move on to discuss a

U.S.-Russian partnership.

. Arms control experts said that upgraded or new genera-tions of U.S. missile defence systems move closer to being capable of attacking longerrange missiles and alarm Russian lawmakers who have to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START

Mr. Kozyrev said recent talks hetween Washington and Moscow on the issue have helped to create better

understanding. U.S. officials said the talks have stalled over the permitted speed of the new missiles as well as the speed and range of incoming targets they would attack,

Mr. Kozyrev praised START I, which went into effect last December, for freeing the world of the nnc-lear threat.

"For the first time ever, I flew from Moscow to New York feeling free from being targetted by my own missiles.

And going back, I am sure also that I am not targetted by American missiles," said Mr. Kozyrev who was in New York to attend a United Nations conference on renewing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
Mr. Kozyrev praised the
NPT and gave Russia's strong
support for its indefinite and

who led the first round, will face neo-Gaullist

conservative Jacques Chirac in the second

round of voting nn May 7 (AFP photo)

unconditional extention.

The foreign minister also praised U.S. President Bill Clinton for deciding to attend the May 8 Victory in Europe Day ceremonies in Moscow.

"It is very important to recognise that it was absorbed by the right decision to go

lutely the right decision to go to Moscow," Mr. Kozyrev said. "That recognises the historical value of the victory we achieved together. We were allies. This is very important for the future."

Arizona film location destroyed by fire

TUCSON, Ariz. (R) Most of the old Tucson mov set, where the late John Wayne and other Cowboy actors made films, was deactors made mins, was de troyed by fire late-Monda Tucson fire officials said out 300 employees and son of tourists were exacts when flames raged through dry lumber buildings and burned dangerously close for 10,000 gallon propane storage tank. There were no m juries, firemen said. Back fires were set to protect the propane tank and a building where a large quantity of black gunpowder used by actors in simulated shootou was stored.

Bardot seeks closure of dolphin show

PARIS (AP) — Brigitte Bardot's animal rights foundation has demanded the closure of a dolphin show at a Paris-area theme park, saying one of the sea mammals there had just died of depression. The Bardot Foundation, headed by the former film star who is now France's leading animal rights activist, said the remaining dolphins at Asterix park should be released from captivity and returned to a natural environment. There was no immediate comment from management of the theme park, located north of Paris. The Bardot Foundation said a female dolphin brought to the theme park in 1988 died earlier this month from depression due to her captivity, It said two other dolphins died in 1993 just before delivering bahies.

Friends, relatives still love Lucy

NEW YORK (AP) — We still love Lucy. To mark the sixth anniversary of the April 26, 1989, death of comedian Lucille Ball, Woman's World magazine interviewed friends, relatives and admirers. "Lucy paved the way for women like me," said Roseanne, a popular U.S. actress and comedienne. She was the first genuine female star on TV that men took seriously." Her son, Desi Amaz Jr., said she tried to keep family life "simple and real" even though much of it revolved around a sound stage. "She had a lot of oldfashioned values. She told me all along that what's impor-tant in this life is to be happy and to have a good rela-

Upfront proposal on behind

tionship with somebody."

LONDON (AP) — When Paul Armstrong decided to propose to Connie Norman, he got down on his knees. And then some. Armstrong had "Connie, will you marry me?" tattoocd on his buttocks. The 24-year-old shoe designer said Monday that he popped the question by asking Ms. Norman, his girlfriend of four years, to give him a hackruh. He murmured "lower... lower" until she got the message. When she agreed, he brought out more conventional paraphernalia: A ring and a bottle of champagne. Mr. Armstrong, from Somerset in England's southwest, said his unmitigated cheeck risked the bum's rush. "Connie hates tattoos," he admitted to Britain's Press Association. "Having it tattooed just added a bit more risk." No risk, Ms. Norman, a 22-yearold teacher told PA. "How

Barbecues, bikinis herald unusuai warm spell

MOSCOW (AP) — Barbecue season has begun, bikinis and swim mers have started flocking to the Moscow River. Is this Moscow or Main? A recordsetting April warm spell has catapulted the Russian capital from the tail-end of winter into what feels like summer for the last week. Every day has set a new record, with the temperature Monday again reaching the mid-20s Celsius (mid-70s Fahrenheit). Or. Sunday, the Russian Orthodox Easter, Muscovites who a year ago were still coping with ice and snow headed to parks, riverbanks and dachas m great numbers, enjoying the sunbathing weather while it lasts. Smoke wafted into the sky from "shashlik" cookouts and grass fires, and long-absent green grass continued to overtake the city's

qua said, paraphrasing a ledged that Mr. Chirac refamous' 1974 saying of ex-mained the "mathematical" Left gains, Berlusconi NATO slips in regional vote

ROME (AFP) — Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party was beaten into second place by the formerly communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) in Italy's regional elections, final results from the Interior Ministry showed Tuesday.

The media magnate's party vote Sunday against 24.6 per cent for the PDS, with the far-right National Alliance third with 14.1 per cent. When political alliances

are taken into account, the left and right finished virtually even in the elections in 15 of Italy's 20 regions.

The Freedom Alliance grouping Forza Italia, the National Alliance and the Christian Democrat Centre (4.2 per cent) gathered a total 40.7 per cent of the vote, while the centre-left got a

combined 40.5 per cent. Berlusconi resigned in December when his coalition with the National Alliance and the federalist Northern League collapsed. The country has since been run by a government of technocrats

under Prime Minister Lam-"In certain places where berto Dini. we dominated almost a The final results contrakilometre ahead of our dedicted polls which at first fence lines, we had to pull declared Mr. Berlusconi's back to 100 metres in line Freedom Alliance the clear winner with nearly 45 per cent of the vote, only for that to crumble as more results

Far from sweeping up nine Marc regions, as it wanted, alliance cent.

LONDON (R) — Seven re-

bel Conservative politicians accepted Prime Minister

John Major's peace overtures

Tuesday and rejoined the

parliamentary party, but they

remained defiant despite en-

damaging split in the party just nine days before local

elections in England and

Wales, when the Conserva-

But the announcement

brought little comfort to Mr.

Major, who has been in a

technical minority in parlia-

ment since eight Conserva-

tives rebelled over his policy

Newspapers said his lead-

ership was firmly on the line

after his decision to offer the

rebels an olive branch, labell-

ing the move a climbdown

after pressure from fellow

Eight members were expel-

led from the parliamentary

party five months ago after

defying the government on a

key vote on closer links with

towards Europe.

ministers.

tives expect to suffer heavy

ding a five month feud. Their decision ends a

U.K. rebel MPs return

to ruling party's ranks

won only six as against nine for the left and centre-left

The daily La Stampa Tuesday led criticism of opinion polls which had forecast a clear victory for Forza Italia. "Betrayed by the polls. The Italians were the victims of a massive disinformation progreceived 22.4 per cent of the ramme," the newspaper

> Mr. Berlusconi admitted that the PDS had progressed but said it "will not please the 75 per cent of Italians who don't want to be ruled hy communists." He also noted that five regions, including conservative Sicily, had not

Mr. Berlusconi said late Monday that he would call on President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to hold early general elections to reflect the changed political landscape

National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini had hoped for 18 to 20 per cent of the vote — pollsters predicted 17 per cent -- but ended up with

14.1 per cent.
PDS secretary Massimo D'Alema told a press conference Monday the next task was to prepare to defeat Mr. Berlusconi and his allies in legislative elections which could take place in October. Meanwhile, the Refound-

ed Communist Party increased its share of the vote from legislative elections in March last year to 8.4 per

Europe.
The seven rebels who re-

turned to the fold Tuesday

said they had done so without

compromising their princi-ples and they would keep

pushing their anti-European

views within the party.

The eight rebel, Michael

Carttiss, is expected to

announce his decision later.

A ninth MP, who resigned

the parliamentary "whip" in

protest at the treatment

meted out to his colleagues,

is consulting local party offi-

cials before making a deci-

Both are expected to agree

"It's obvious our views ha-

ven't changed. We are now

going to devote ourselves to

do everything we can within

the parliamentary party's in-

stitutions to strengthen policy

on Europe," rebel Sir Teddy Taylor told a news confer-

Several rebel MPs, saying

their readmission to the party

was unconditional, called it a

victory for their position.

to return.

expansion timetable on course

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is inform-ing Russia at next month's summit in Moscow that the schedule for expanding NATO to incorporate former Soviet allies is on course, U.S. Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher said. next autumn.

After discussion, the plan, Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members in Decem-

meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Russia to its doorstep.

As he met with Poland's new foreign minister, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Mr. Christopher said results of a study on expansion will be presented to Eastern and Central European countries

which Mr. Christopher called 'a deliberate timetable." will be taken up by the 16 North

The expansion plan is among several items of discord expected to mark President Bill Clinton's Moscow ohiects to extending NATO

Package bomb kills one in California SACRAMENTO, California "Based on a preliminary dustry lohbying group, hlowing out several windows and assessment of some of the

materials, the bomb task

force advised me that the

Richard Ross, who

(R) — A bomh hidden in a package exploded Monday in an office building in Sacramento, killing a man, officials said.

mined by the development of

Police and FBI officials said they believe that the bombing was carried out hy the mysterious "unahomber," who has been linked to 15 other explosive devices

similarities strongly suggest it was the work of the Unabomber," heads the FBI's Sacramento

office, told reporters late Monday. The bomh exploded at the office of the California Foredoors in the one-storey hrick The victim was identified

by police as 47-year-old Gil-bert Murray, a lohhyist and president of the Forestry Association. He had a wife and three children,

No one else was hurt in the

Fire in northwestern China kills 51

an entertainment district has killed 51 people and injured an unconfirmed number of others in the northwestern Chinese city of Urumqi, a local official said Tuesday, The fire broke out early

Monday at a karaoke cluh in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang province, said an official at the provincial foreign affairs

A report in the newspaper Legal Daily quoted police and fire officials as saying the exits from the karaoke hall were blocked and too narrow, preventing the victims from escaping. The club furnishings also had not been made flame retardant, it said.

The fire was the latest in a series that have ravaged dance halls, cinemas and other public gathering places, leading the government to announce a fire prevention

The rising toll from fires has become something of an embarrassment: last year, a record 2,748 people died and 4,277 people were injured in nearly 40,000 fires.

A Dec. 8 fire in the Xinjiang City of Karamay killed 325 people, most of them children who were trapped inside because all but one exit was locked. A dance hall fire in November killed 288 people under similar circumst-

Aside from the 51 dead, an unspecified number of people were injured in the Urumqi blaze and sent to local hospitals, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said he could not provide further details.

Meanwhile, a separate report said a forest fire was burning out of control near the sonthwestern city of

Some 4,000 local people

had joined firefighters and police to try to contain the hlaze, which broke out a week ago, the newspaper ported from Shanghai.

Nuclear waste ship to dock in Japan on Wednesday

MUTSU OGAWARA, Japan (R) — A Japanese provincial governor Tuesday lifted an order blocking a British freighter carrying lethal nuclear waste from docking, ending an embarras-sing stand-off with the central government. A spokesman for Morio

Kimura, governor of Aomori prefecture, said the freighter Pacific Pintail, carrying 14 tonnes of radioactive waste; could dock Wednesday, one day behind schedule.
"The ship will enter port

tomorrow for spot checks," the spokesman told Reuters. Mr. Kimura had barred the ship's entry into this placid northern Japanese port, custom-hmilt to handle a planned series of nuclearwaste shipments, just one hour before it was scheduled to dock early Tuesday morn-

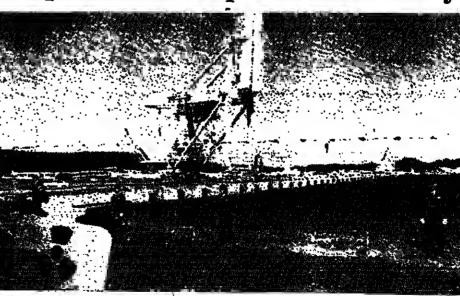
ing.

The spokesman said the central government had given in to Mr. Kimura's demands and handed him a written statement promising not to seek permanent burial of the toxic waste in the prefecture,

Mr. Kimura relented after the freighter, Pacific Pintail. missed a daylight deadline for handlers to unload the 14 tonnes of highly radioactive waste it is carrying.

famed for its apples.

The Pacific Pintail will anchor off the port Tuesday night and dock Wednesday at 9 a.m. (2400 GMT Tuesday), said officials of Japan Nucof the central government's



Police guard the wharf of Mutsu-Ogawara Port, Rokkasho, northern Japan. The British freighter Pacific Pintail, which sailed from Wednesday amid a wave of angry anti-nuclear Cherbourg, France, two months ago with a protesters (AFP photo)

load of reprocessed and sealed nuclear waste is expected to arrive at Mutsu-Ogawara Port

lear Fuel Ltd, the cargo's

Mr. Kimura is a member of the opposition Shinshinto group who took office just two months ago. He had warned he would block the freighter at the end of a two-month voyage from

France. His adamant stand clearly caught the central govern-ment off guard. "We very much regret governor Kimura's decision," said a chagrined Makiko Tanaka, head

Science and Technology buried at an unspecified loca-

Under the terms of a treaty between Japan, Britain and France, the nuclear waste, produced at a French reprocessing plant where spent Japanese uranium fuel was reprocessed into plutonium, must be stored in Japan.

The waste, mixed with glass and encased in 28 stainless steel cainsters, was to have been stored for 50 years at a special cooling facility at the village of Rokkasho, near Mutsu Ogawara, and then

It is a mix of highly radioactive material such as strontium, which has a halflife of several million years. Nuclear industry sources said the ship had nowhere eise to go because Rokkasho was the only existing storage facility.

Anti-nuclear activists at the port were clearly delight-"We fully support this wise decision by the gova snokesman

1.76 1.76 1.78

•

could I say no after all that?"

Arizona film location destroyed by fire

Most of the old Tucson, set, where the late Wayne and other Carloyed by fire he hour and small said out 300 employees and of tourists were to when flames raged dry lumber build burned dangerously des 10,000 gallon propage age tank. There were juries, firemen said fires were set to propage tank and a last sciors in simulated and a particular in simulated and a particular

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Bardot seeks closure of dolphin show

PARIS (AP) — Brigath dot's animal right fact tion has demanded that sure of a dolphin than the control of the c Paris-area theme parts one of the sea mammable had just died of departs. The Bardot Foundaries the the feet of the sea of headed by the former i star who is now insaid the remaining doc released from caping a returned to a natural cons ment. There was no me ate comment from ment of the theme part Bardot Foundation said female dolphin brook; the theme park in 1986 earlier this month from pression due to her capital It said two other down ched in 1993 just believe livering babies.

Friends, relatives still love Lucy

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Barbecues, bikinis herald unusual warm spell MOSCOW (AP) By and are out in force and k are out in force and k mais have started from Go, the Moscow Rose E.

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"I want to submit an application for disbanding the Aum as soon as it is prosented to overable in the cuted," said

World News



Australian U.N. soldiers look for snipers as others evacuate perpetrated by Rwandan army troops in the Kibeho camp (AFP photo) survivors of a massacre of thousands of Rwandan Hutus

Rwandan soldiers prod refugees homeward

BUTARE, Rwanda (AP) — Soldiers prodded tens of thousands of Hutu refugees out of Butare and on toward their home villages Tuesday while fears intensified that mass returns would touch off a wave of a deadly reprisals by members of a rival ethnie

An estimated 60,000 people were camped in the open in and around Butare, having fled the refugee camp at Kibeho 32 kilometres to the West after thousands were gunned down by soldiers or trampled to death in stampedes Saturday.

By official U.N. estimate. at least 2,000 men, women and children were killed at Kibeho, but some U.N. offidals and private aid workers say the number was probably much higher.

Most of the refugees from the camp are Hutus who took shelter at Kibeho last year for . fear of reprisals by the victonous, Tutsi-led rebel army for the genocidal massacres of a half million Rwandans, most of them Tutsis.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali has been trying for months to get the more than two million refugees inside Rwanda and in neighbouring countries to terum to their homes.

Its soldiers were continuing that effort in Butare Tuesday, sometimes harshly.

Aid workers and others being abused by civilians and soldiers alike. "You know local people standing along the route are

carrying sticks and hitting them quite heavily," said Brynjar Wetteland, an employee of the U.N. Children's Fund. "I even saw lots of soldiers that would hit people that were quite unable to defend themselves."

The U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan, said some 200,000 refugees were on the march throughout Rwanda. He and other U.N. officials warned of renewed hostility toward re-

turning refugees. A U.N. military spokesman in Kigali, Lt. Kent Page. said he bad personally seen refugees whipped and stoned by civilians and soldiers.

"they are more than just minor incidents," he said. In Geneva, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the Rwandan government had reported that at least nine returning refugees had heen killed and that 1,100 bad been locked in a bank building in the village of Ngenda. The building is supposed to hold 500 people, spokesman Ron Redmond

Many of the returning refugees were in bad condition, he said. Some had machete wounds, others had been stoned or beaten.

Mr. Khan said some 70 per cent of the refugees nationwide were expected to stream into four villages. Some 10,000 arrived Tuesday in one village, Gitarama, he said in Kigalî.

"The government is conscious of the fact that there is going to be a huge problem in terms of food and water," Mr. Khan said. "There is also a question of hostility."

Mr. Khan said the United Nations bas asked that at least one buman rights monitor be placed in each of the 13 villages to which the 200,000 refugees were returning and that additional military observers be stationed in the

A standoff continued Tuesday at Kibebo between soldiers and about 600 men, women and children who were refusing to vacate a school. Some of the holdouts apparently are hardline Hutus who have the most to fear from the Tutsi-led army.

Others were apparently being held against their will hy Hatu extremists using them as human shields, said one U.N. official, speaking



A Hutu refugee with a machete wound sits waiting for the Red Cross to take him and 20 others to a hospital in Butare. He was one of hundreds of Hutus wounded by Rwandan soldiers when they opened fire on the refugees, killing thousands (AFP photo)

on condition of anonymity. There is a very hard core inside the building with weapons and grenades and they are trying to persuade the other people not to leave," said Benedict Giaev-er, a field officer for the U.N. Rwanda Emergency Organisation. "It is a very difficult situation for us.

The situation at the Kibeho camp underscored the deep distrust hampering Rwanda's attempts to recover from the civil war and genocide of last

The government has vowed not to seek revenge against Hutu civilians and promised to set up a war crimes tribunal to try those suspected of involvement in 1994's massacres.

Aid workers and witnesses said last weekend's slaughter was unprovoked. The government claims that its soldiers were protecting themselves against Huru militiamen.

United Nations should bave done more to stop the violence, which occurred within sight of 200 U.N. peacekeep-

A report issued Monday by Human Rights Watch-Africa backed up those accusatisons, saying that although the peacekeepers were outnumbered by Rwandan soldiers. they should have anticipated trouble and called for rein-

A U.N. spokesman in New York, Joe Sills, would not comment on the report. Malaysia's ruling party heads for big win

Shelling, artillery duels rock Bosnia as truce deadline nears

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Shelling and artillery duels rocked Sarajevo and other areas of Bosnia Tuesday as the deadline approached for the end of a four-month ceascfire, with the U.N. blaming

both sides for the fighting. Twn men, aged 18 and 30, were killed and three people including one middle-eaged woman were wounded when two shells slammed into central Sarajevo late Monday, landing close to the Latin Bridge in the old Turkish quarter, witnesses and bospital staff said.

Some 12 shells fell in Bihae town, a U.N.-protected northwestern city, believed to have been fired from separatist Croatian Serb and Bosnian Serb positions, U.N. Protection Force (UNRPRO-FOR) spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

Unconfirmed reports said two civilians had been killed, one of them a 12-year-old boy, and others wounded, Col. Coward said,

On Tuesday, the shelling of Bihac continued with "dozens" of tank and Howitzer rounds landing in the city centre early morning, Radio Sarajevo said, in unconfirmed reports.

The previous day, artillery duels rang out around the Jewish Cemetery, situated on the left bank of the Miljacka River in Sarajevo, bisected by a frontline separating Bosnian government and separatist Serb forces.

The sound of small arm, heavy-machine gun and mortar fire bas returned to Sarajevo as it has to the other besieged enclaves in recent weeks. In Gorazde, to the east, three civilians were wounded Monday, one of them a pregnant woman shot through the stomach. U.N. officials said that it

was hoped both mother and child would survive. In theory, Sarajevo, Bihac

and Gorazde are all U.N.protected areas following the decision last February to declare heavy-weapons exclusion: zones around the cities on pain of NATO airstrikes.

Asked Tuesday if the United Nations bad considered calling for NATO aircover after the shelling of the cities, . UNPROFOR spokesman Alexander Ivanko said it had not because "both sides were shelling each other."

UNPROFOR nevertheless "strongly condemns these

attacks" which constituted "another blow to the ceasefire and once again underline the importance of renewing the ceasefire and cessation of bostilities agreements," he

The ceasefire, negotiated at the end of last year hy former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, has been largely disregarded on the ground since Marcb 20 when the Bosnian government army launched two offensives in northeast and central Bosnia.

The separatist Serbs, embarrassed by military defeats caused in part by their own fuel shortages, responded by resuming sniping and shelling. Bosnian government troops regularly respond to the shooting on the confrontation lines with their own mortar attacks on Serbheld areas.

Analysts appear divided on whether or not there will be a particular flare-up in the fighting when the ceasefire that international negotiators are seeking to renew - runs out May 1.

"They ignore it now so what difference will it make," one U.N. official said privately.

Observers said meanwhile that there has been a regular pattern throughout the now three-year war of an increase in sniping, shelling and other incidents every time that a ceasefire is about to expire or that political problems emerge.

Late Monday, a U.N. llyushin 76 transport plane was hit by three rounds of small arms fire as it took off for Zagreb from Sarajevo air- isation and discrimination port, crossing over confrontation lines between the government-held Butmir suburb and Serb-held Ilidza.

An UNPROFOR spokesman said officially Tuesday, the "exact firing point could not be established."

Ethnie eleansing operations in Serb-controlled regions of Bosnia have almost reached their goal of "ethnic purification," a special report for the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in former Yugoslavia said Tuesday.

Muslim and Croat populations living in Serb-controlled areas have been drastically cut hy 90 and 80 per cent respectively said the U.N. special rapporteur, former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki,

While about 356,000 Muslims and 180,000 Croats coexisted before 1991 in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, there are no more than 37,000 Muslims and 30,000 Croats left today, many of them desperate to leave, the report

During the same period, the Serh population had grown from 625,000 to 719,000.

Three thousand refugees had left for neighbouring Croatia during the first three months of this year, he said. "The de-facto Bosnia Serb authorities are very close to attaining their apparent aim of achieving 'ethnic purity' in

territory under their control," Mr. Mazowiecki said. "Non-Serbs have been subjected to unrelenting terrorand it appears that virtually none wish to remain in northern Bosnia and Herzegovi-

na," he added. He said a significant number of the local Serb population who had refused to subject non-Serbs to discrimination had been put under constant pressure by Serb nationalistic groups.

Meanwhile a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday the decision by a U.N. tribunal to name Bosnian Serb leaders as suspects in future war crimes trials could endanger a peace settlement in the region.

Interfax News Agency quoted the official, whom it id not name, as saying: "Such a step will harm efforts to achieve a peace settlement in the Balkans."

The international criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia, hased in the Hague, said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzie, army commander General Ratko Mladie, and former secret police chief Mico Stanisic were being investigated as war crimes sus-

The Foreign Ministry official told Interfax it was more productive to search for a political settlement than to

stir the past." Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said last week his minister often used "an unnamed diplomat" formula to express its opinion. Russia is often more sympathetic to Serbs, fellow Slavs and Orthodox Christ-



A Sarajevan is helped by doctors as he tries to push his injured friend out of the car at Sarajevo's Kosevo Hospital late Monday. Two

people died and three were seriously wounded when shells fell into the old part of the city. The man died minutes later (AFP photo)

'High time' U.S., Vietnam opened full ties - premier

HANOI (R) - With the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War only days away, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has said it is "high time" the United States and Hanoi established full diplomatie

In a wide-ranging interview with foreign journalists Tues-day, Mr. Kiet spoke of a unified Vietnam that wanted to put the past behind it and

MOSCOW (R) - Russian

President Boris Yeltsin was

poised Tuesday to order a

halt to combat operations in

Chechenya during World

War II victory ceremonies

next month, easing pressure

on Western leaders who are

focus on dragging its 72 million people out of poverty and into an era of gradual industrialisation.

Mr. Kiet, speaking through an interpreter, said the gov-ernment was committed to economic reform and would deal severely with any officials who disrupt the warravaged nation's efforts for economic renewal by corrupt

"Clearly U.S.-Vietnam relations are moving forward positively. (But) we believe it is high time the United States and Vietnam established nor-

cial relations," Mr. Kiet said. "We bave to close the past and look toward the future for the sake of Vietnam and

mai diplomatic ties as well as

full economic and commer-

The United States established formal ties with Vietnam last January by setting up a liaison office in Hanoi

But U.S. President Bill Clinton has said full accounting for more than 2,000 missing U.S. servicemen in Indochina is a top national priority and progress will help determine the pace of normalising relations with

practices and abuses of powthe U.S.," he added. According to unofficial re-turns, the National Front was paigned for re-election on the KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Prime Minister Mahathir appeal to Penang's ethnie Chinese majority. platform that only his multileading in many of the constiracial coalition could ensure Yeltsin to halt Chechenya operations on V-Day

Mohammad's National Front coalition Tuesday appeared headed for a landslide victory in Malaysia's ninth general election, early returns showed.

The opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) saw its bid for power in Penang, dubbed Malaysia's "Silicon Valley," crumble when its leader, Lim Kit Siang, failed to unseat Chief Minister Koh Tsu Koon.

Mr. Koh won by 3,600 votes despite the DAP's pledge to work for greater equality for all Malaysian races, a battle cry that the party bad thought would

also swept the first 19 parliamentary wards in the timber-rich eastern state of Sarawak, although the mostly Christian opposition, the Parti Bersatu Sahah (PBS). appeared to be holding ground in neighbouring Sabah. Lawyer Ynnof Maringking

National Front candidates appeared ahead in many of

of the PBS won a seat to parliament from Tuaran, a rural ward. The PBS also won in the Christian stronghold of Bandau where federal Deputy Minister Jeffrey Kitingan crashed to his. nepbew, Maximums Ongkili.

tuencies electing MPs to the 192-seat Dewan Rakyat, or lower bouse of parliament. The National Front also

the 385 wards electing repre-sentatives to 11 of Malaysia's 13 state assemblies. The ruling coalition went into the polls with an early lead, having won 11 seats in

parliament uncontested when nominations closed on April

It also took nine seats in four state assemblies uncon-

Mr. Mahathir had cam-

the stability Malaysian seeded to continue rapid economic expansion and full employ-Malaysia's economy bas grown by more than eight per

cent annually over the past seven years, faelled by huge inflows of foreign capital that have transformed the country into a newly-industrialised "We have done our best.

We bope to win by more than a two-thirds majority," the 70-year-old Mahathir, oozing self-confidence, declared late

due to attend. "There will be a document, probably a decree of President Yeltsin imposing a moratorium on military ac-

The decree would be signed either later Tuesday or Wednesday, he said, but did not make clear how long the Russian forces would keep their guns silent.

Mr. Chernomyrdin clearly envisaged at least May 8 and 9, when U.S. President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders will bail Russia's contribution to the allied victory at events in Moscow, and the period of a Russian-U.S. summit meeting afterwards.

Although the Clinton administration initially described Moscow's problems with Chechenya as an internal Russian matter, it has become increasingly critical of the military operation in the breakaway region.

visit Moscow for the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany. He is anxious to avoid any embarrassment over Chechenya during his visit. Thousands of Cheehen

fighters and civilians have been killed since the Kremlin sent forces into the Caucasus region last December to crusb its three-year independence bid. Mr. Chernomyrdin offered

last Friday to start talks on a ceasefire without preconditions. But the Russian military has said there has been no sign of a response from Chechen fighters. A total of 27 Chechen

fighters have been killed in the past few days in fighting around several localities in the northeast, southeast and west of the region, Interfax News Agency guoted an unnamed Russian military official as saying.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to a war museum linked to the forthcoming World War II celebrations, Mr. Chernomyrdin said his offer of talks without precoditions remained open.

"We want, through this decree (of Yeltsin's), to appeal to everyone to stop military actions during this sacred period and we would very much like everyone to respond," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's orders appear to have gone unheeded before over Chechenya. He ordered a halt to bombing that would endanger civilians in the capital, Grozny, last December but witnesses said bombing raids continued.

It is also not clear if rebels

The United States sent two diplomats from Moscow to Chechenya at the weekend to look for a missing American disaster relief expert, U.S.

State Department officials said their brief was to find any clue that could lead to the whereahouts of the expert, Frederick Cuny.

officials in Washington said.

Mr. Cuny had been working for the Soros Foundation to set up a hospital in Dagestan near Chechenya and to bring humanitarian supplies to people left homeless by the war between Moscow and

Chechen separatists. Meanwhile Mr. Chernomyrdin announced Tuesday he was creating a block of people"who want to see Russia stable, powerful and sure of itself," to run in elections.

Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters the new alliance would run in the December elections to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. But his announcement could also make bim a key player in presidential polls

scheduled for mid-1996. The 57-year-old prime minister's popularity is high, the economy is showing signs of recovery and he is largely not tainted in the public eye by the Kremlin's bloody intervention in breakaway Chechenya.

"Russia has had enough shocks and revolutions. It should not be turned into a' testing ground. Russia is our home, where accord and stability should reign and we should ensure this," Mr.

Chernomyrdin said. We will take part in elections. A bloc, or a movement, will be formed. Worthy people should be elected to the State Duma people who want to see Russia stable, powerful and sure

of itself." Mr. Chernomyrdin said the new grouping had been dis-cussed with President Boris Yeltsin but did not make clear whether it would have a formal alliance with Mr. Yeltsin. The prime minister made it plain he personally intended to play a key role in

the movement. Sergei Filatov, the head of Mr. Yeltsin's administration, told Interfax News Agency he would support the new movement.

The prime minister did not say which political groups he intended to unite in his new movement, but he is likely to be backed by centrists and moderate reformist groups.

Many influential financial and industrial groups are also likely to side with him, regarding him as a guarantor of stability.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, prime minister since December 1992, made his career in the Soviet energy sector. He proved himself loyal to the president and to reforms.

The hardline opposition has accused Mr. Yeltsin of aiming to postpone parliamentary and presidential elections. Mr. Chernomyrdin said the polls would definitely be held on time.

Japanese officials agree to disband doomsday sect

TORYO (Agencies) -Japan's Education Minister Kaoru Yosano and Tokyo Governor Yukio Aoshima agreed Tuesday to speed up proceedings to disband the Aum Supreme Truth, the chief suspect in last month's subway nerve gas attack.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between the two top officials, who are both in charge of supervising religious groups m Japan. "The Education Ministry, the Tokyo local government.

the Justice Ministry and

police authorities will coor-

dinate efforts to prepare the

necessary documents," Mr. Yosano told reporters follow-

Mr. Aoshima, who was elected governor on April 9, was quoted by Tokyo government officials as telling Mr. Yosano that he had "the same opinion as the minis-

But the pair held back from spelling out when any application to dismantle the sect would be filled, the officials said.

Under Japanese law, interested parties, public prosecutors or local administrators are able to ask a court to disband a religious group suspected of committing an act that has endangered public

If it goes ahead it will be the first time since World War II that a religious organisation in Japan has been forcibly disbanded. A sect member who was

arrested also told police that

two other members of the doomsday cult were involved in the nerve gas attack on the subway that killed 12 people and injured 5,500 others, the Sankei Sumbun said. The two men, who are unidentified, placed sacks

containing the nerve gas sarin

in the Tokyo subway, the paper alleged, Police started procedures Tuesday to obtain an arrest warrant for Aum leader Sboko Asahara on charges of producing sarin, a lethal gas used in the attack, the daily

The move came after Hiroyuki Jo, 29, a selfavowed rightist suspected of ties with the Yukuza criminal Organization, assassinated Hideo Murai, 36, head of the cult's chemical bureau, Sun-

Police now fear more of

assassinated before they have compiled enough evidence linking the cult to the production of sariti and perhaps the Tokyo subway attack, police sources said. "We are trying to hurry the investigation, which has

lasted for more than a

month," a police spokesman

The background and motivation of the man who killed Murai in a televised knife attack Snuday evening are still unclear, police said.
The suspect told police that
he belonged to Shinshushiei-Kan, a right-wing organisa-tion based in Mie prefecture, central Japan.

Police are now trying to confirm reports that the suspect was a former member of Yamaguchi Gumi, the nation's largest undergound the sect leaders could he syndicate, Jiji Press said.

tion in Chechenya for the period of the celebrations," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters.

Mr. Clinton agreed only after lengthy consideration to

loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokbar Dudayev would stop fighting if the Russians

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Tools for right use

THE NEW amendments to the Traffic Law that have just been approved by the Cabinet cannot be the solution to our woes on the road since their purpose seems to be only that of making certain violations more prohibitive than others. The primary reason why this country still suffers from unusually high rate of road accidents is not that our law-enforcement authorities dish ont light sentences for traffic violators. The real reasons for the chaos on the streets, dare we say, lie in the double standards, laxity and selectivity that law enforcers pursue in doing

To begin with, traffic police have to employ one standard in dealing with violators. They cannot continue to impose or withhold fines according to the "wasta" system that is being followed practically in every sector of life. So before we change the law, necessary as the change may be, let us try to enforce the existing legislation across the board.

Secondly, our traffic police seem to continue to target inconsequential traffic violations such as parking at the expense of the more serious crimes such as not halting at stop signs. We are not going to succeed in ending the carnage on the roads, even after the amendments are passed, if the authorities do not get their priorities right.

Thirdly, what we need is the cultivation of a sensible driving culture that cannot be nurtured solely by stiffening fines or applying stricter rules. Parallel with making reckless driving habits more costly, there is always a pressing need to educate people not only on safe driving habits but also on courteous and defensive driving as well. Other countries with wider and deeper experiences with traffic problems have made it mandatory for violators to go back to driving schools and attend many days of classes and lectures on how to operate their automobiles properly before their licences are revalidated or returned. While we admit there is no magic wand to make Jordanian drivers better, safer and more courteous, we still feel that the concerned anthorities have yet to achieve their end of the bargain.

In the final analysis, there is no escape from the conclusion that we need to find both the will and the way before we can dream of ending the traffic nightmare. Tough laws are indeed tools that can be used to solve a particular problem in a society like ours. But equally important is the need to create a mental and practical framework in which these tools can be used properly and efficiently in the service of the cause.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic Daily Tuesday criticised the government for practising a policy of appointing retired military and civilian personnel to new jobs and leaving tens of thousands of citizens seeking jobs for the first time in their life. Honsi Ayesh said that the government has been in the practice of exercising pressure on public institutions like the Social Security Corporation, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company to employ reured personnel who receive pension from the Government Pension Fund or the Social Security Corporation. In some cases, these retired and reemployed persons farm 20 per cent of the total number of employees in such public institutions, said the writer. It is not unusual for any retired person to seek work but it is unjust to see the government trying to help the retired persons who receive pension and leave thousands of youth unemployed, continued the writer. If the pension given to the retired persons is not sufficient, why has the government put them on retirement in the first place? asked the writer. He said that in view of the high rate of unemployment in Jordan, the government ought to find solutions to the plight of the job seekers and leave the pensioners to try to get other jobs through their own efforts and in private business.

ANOTHER COLUMNIST in Al Rai daily criticised the Israeli government for failing to live up to the declaration of principles with the Palestinians and for continuing a policy that is aggravating the deterioration in the security situation in the occupied Arab lands. The Israelis demand that the donor nations honour their commitments and provide the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with the promised funds to carry out essential infrastructure proects. but Israel itself does not show any sign of committing itself to implementing its own pledges to the Palestinian people, said Mahmoud Rimawi. By withdrawing their forces from the occupied lands, by releasing detained Palestinians and organising the Palestinian elections, the Israelis can defuse tension, he said. By trying to trigger civil war in Gaza and by continuing their aggressive policies against the Palestinians, said the writer, the Israelis are committing acts of terrorism.

Terrorism and Racism

IT IS ONE o'clock a.m. and I am on my way to CNN to do an interview on Arab-American fears of a backlash in the wake of the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City.

It has been an exhuasting day. From the moment news of the blast reached us, my office and those of other Arab-American groups in Washington were caught in a

Like all Americans, we were outraged by the cowardly attack on our fellow Americans. All day we watched the scope of the tragedy grow. Our sense of loss mixed with our sense of horror.

The media, being what it is in the U.S., covered the Oklahoma City bombing all day. To fill the time, they invited many so-called "experts" and commentators to speculate about the attack. And that's when the ugly tragedy took a cruel turn for Arab and Muslim Americans.

As early as 11:30 a.m. Eastern time (only 1½ bours after the explosion), former Oklahoma congressman Dave McCurdy speculated that Muslims or another Middle East group may well have perpetrated the attack. There is, he noted, a large and active Middle Eastern community in Oklahoma (cortacily present). Oklahoma (actually untrue: There are roughly 300 Arab-American families in the state) and that they are known to support radical causes. Only after saying this did be catch himself — too late of course — and said that "we should not jump to conclusions," but of course he already had. (A chilling footnote to this that Mr. McCurdy was a finalist for the job of CIA director in the Clinton administration.

Throughout the day this sense repeated itself. When calls from the media asked for my reaction to the killings, I challenged them: "Why are you calling me? What else would my response be but total condemnation of this act

which took so many innocent byes." Most Arab-American and American Muslim groups issued statements condemning the act. I besitated, and my thinking was simple. Of course we are not supportive of this or any criminal act. But what of those who will immediately speculate when they see such a statement that we (Arab-Americans) must somehow be the first to condemn the attack out of guilt or fear of being implicated.

At 8 p.m., after a number of statements and calls from the rest of the Arab-American and Muslim groups, I went to the studio to do my weekly television programme, "A Capital View," Our topic, of course, was the bombing, and my guest was Father Sean McManus, an Irish-American leader. His community, like ours, feels the pain and frustration of guilt by implication.

The show has a call-in segment, and Arab-Americans from all over the country called in to express their anger and outrage over the attack and the loss of life and their anger at all the "experts" who have implicated our community in this heinous act.

The most poignant calls came from Arab-Americans in

Oklahoma City. They responded first and foremost as Oklahomans hurt and gricving for their neighbours and friends who were killed and wounded in the attack. "Oklahoma has always been home to us," they noted with

I reached home at 10 p.m. but the calls continued to come in front the media and other Arab-Americans. The former were asking for a reaction, and the latter wanted to discuss what we should do as a community.

Yet another interview, to say one more time that I condemn the attack and grieve for the loss of life, as if some other reaction might be expected of me. At that studio I will explain one more time that Arab-Americans and American Muslims bave nothing to do with such criminals acts, and that of course we condemn the attack uneqivocally no matter who the perpetrators might be. And to warn the media that it must take responsibility for not speculating too casually.

There are, of course, many lessons to be learned from

such a day. Primary among those lessons is the fact that terrorism is always cruel and stupid. As President Clinton put it, it was "cowardly and evil." And just as the speculation by "experts" who implicate a community without evidence is racist, terrorism is equally racist. Terrorism takes lives without reason, as if they had no value.

In any and every instance of terrorism, there is no justification for taking the lives of those who end up as

victims. The innocent die in part because they were at the wrong place at the wrong time. But they also die for the simple, racial, reason of who they are.

This is not war. This is racist crime malevolently at work. Arab Muslims worshippers in Hebron were shot to death because they were Arabs, Israelis at bus stops were killed because they are Israeli, and Americans in the World Trade Centre were killed because they were Americans.

None of those killed through terrorist acts have committed any crime - indeed, because they are essentially random victims, the terrorists don't have any real idea of who they are killing. There is no cause to justify such

Baruch Goldstein was known to have complained about a friend of his who was slain by an Arab. But none of the worshippers in the Hebrou Mosque were the perpetrators of that act. Goldstein simply killed "Arabs." Similarly, whatever argument the group which blew up the World Trade Centre had with the American government, their victims were innocent of any act against that group. They were simply Americans.

That brings me to my next point. Just as there are no authentic connections between the legitimate grievances of a people and the act of the terrorist, the act of a terrorist sbould not in any way diminish the legitimate grivances of a

people. There is no real connection between these two things.

To use a concrete example, U.S. postal workers have a long history of grievances based on the difficulty of thier jobs. In a number of instances, deranged individual postal workers have gone into their work places and killed thier superiors and others who happened to be nearby. Though by no means common, the phrase "disgruntled postal worker" has become a standard description for such individuals. But do such acts in any way diminish the legitimate grievances of postal workers? And, more directly, do the hideous acts of murder by deranged workers do anything to ease the working conditions of the surviving colleagues? The answers are a self-evident "no."

Terrorism solves nothing. All it does is weaken, in the minds of those who survive, the concern they may bave come to feel for the pain of the group which the terrorists purport to represent. That is why terrorism must be universally condemned. It takes innocent lives and brings a heightened sense of danger to everyone on both sides of the

This brings me to my final observation. The perpetrators of the Oklahoma City bombing are still not known, yet speculation is rampant that it was committed by "Middle Easterners" or "Muslims" or "Arabs." Such speculation is both dangerous and in itself injurious to those it assumes are guilty, as it is both a product of and a contributor to a biased stereotype. But it is also based on the tragic and ugly fact that there are some Arabs and Muslims who have carried out such acts in the names of "Arabism" or "Islam," just as there are those who, in the names of those causes, continue to make stupid and evil threats to carry out such acts. Such criminals and would be criminals do thier part to feed and create the very bias of which they complain.

I remember observing when the World Trade Centre was bombed back in 1993, that, if it was in fact an Arab or Muslim who was responsible for the act, that the victims would extend beyond those killed and wounded in the bombing and those whose live became subject to fear.

The criminals in New York bave made victims of us all. They are in prison, where they belong. We are in a different kind of prison and we, too, are paying for their crime. They bave accomplished nothing but wounding and killing innocent people and banding our political enemies a

weapon they can use against us.

To the Oklahoma bombing, I reacted with pain and borror like all my fellow Americans; but I, like all Arab Americans and American Muslims, had to take time from grief and outrage to defend our communities. That is wrong. But given the dangerous mix of racism and terrorism that was how I was forced to spend my day.

Pro-Zionist lobbies behind campaign to demonise Arabs, Muslims

U.S. media and anti-Arab 'experts' immediately blamed Arabs and Muslims for the Oklahoma bombing despite the lack of any evidence to support their claims

By G.H. Jansen

THE VERY real dangers in the propagandistic and deliberate demonising of a person and a community came ont into the open in the immediate aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing. The assumption was made, very widely, that is was the work of "Islamic terrorist", though there was never a scrap of supporting evidence for that accusation.

This assumption was transformed into an accusation within the first hours of the devastating explosion at Oklahoma City and soon bceame a brainwashing campaign. Such campaigns can be easily and quickly mounted because the U.S. media, much less independent than it claims to be, is heavily influenced, if not controlled, by American Zionists who are pro-Israel and anti-Arab and anti-Islamic. This means that demonising, or brainwashing, usually involves the introduction of a Middle Eastern context for any "terrorist" outrage, though in the case of the Oklahoma bombing, many other possibilities were cited — but not stressed, including drug dealers and people seeking revenge for the Waco cult massacre by U.S. federal agents two years, to the day before the Oklahoma inci-Demonisation has its political pur-

poses. Iraq was demonised before the Gulf war and Iran is being demonised now, before what could be a repeat of "De-sert Storm" because Iraq and Iran are both very hostile towards Israel-Iraq, after all, shot Scud missiles into Israel during that war. From the start of the Oklahoma bombing it was clear that this was a terrorist attack on a U.S. government target which would produce many dead and wounded and would, therefore, create much hostility against the culprits. Hence,

from the start the blamc had to be placed on "Islamie terrorists" to demonise them even further than had already been done during the preceding few years.

Accordingly and from the

start, "terrorist specialists" mostly clearly pro-Israeli, would give it as their weigh-ty opinion that there was a remarkable similarity between the Oklahoma bombing and those carried out by Islamie terrorists" on the American embassy in Beirut, on Jewish community centres in Buenos Aires and London and, particularly, on the World Trade Centre in New York two years ago, which, as it happens, were all said to be carried out by "Islamic terrorists".

These specialists would add, in a show of fairness, that they were not making any direct accusation against any group but the resemblances were curious

- were they not? A kick-start was given to this campaign by no less a person than William Perry, the U.S. Secretary of defence, who, talking about the bombing, threw in a reference to an "Islamic front", about which nobody knows anything or even if it exists at all. This oblique approach prevailed throughout the campaign: no direct accusation, but even as part of a denial that there was yet any clear culprit, there would come a mention of "Hamas" and "Islamic Jihad" and of

"Beirut". The finest example of this indirect accusation was given by the senior White House correspondent of a major U.S. television network who, conceding that "Islamic terrorism" trail had gone cold because of lack of hard evidence, and because the inquiry was already closing in on two white American men who bad been linked to the bomb-truck, went on to add

that there had not been any earlier example of "Isalmic terrorists" hiring white mcn to carry ont their bombings. Thus, drawing another false trail across the track.

This line of distracting misinformation was supported by a former CIA ded to the Libyans when they needed belp." Implying, perhaps, that any "terrorist" culprits could expect similar assistance.

wanted to believe that the bombers were Muslim Arabs and not white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. It is much easier, psychological-ly, for Americans to blame the "enemy without" for such a terrible act than the "enemy within", for whom

monising campaigners, within 12 hours of this man's detention it was announced by the U.S. police that he had cooperated fully with his accusers and had been found unconnected to the bombing and released. Soon after this it was announced from Rome that the "equipment" found in the luggage bad nothing to do with "bomb-making". But the linkage with the

emphasised once again.

Unfortunately, the Isla-

official when be said, "don't forget the IRA turn-The investigators abandoned the "Islamic terrorist" theory only slowly and reluctantly because they

they must account.

The British government gave a strong boost to the demonising campaign when, quite unnecessarily, it announced that the British police had returned to New York a "Jordanian-American" who bad arrived from Chicago — a city in the same general direction as Oklahoma city and that bis baggage, which had been sent to Rome, had been opened there and found to contain what could be __mb-making equip-ment."

Unfortunately for the de-Middle East had been

mic groups particularly targeted by the demonisers. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, made things worse when, very stupidly and soon after the bombing, they put ont statements condemning it and stating that they had

nothing to do with it.

The results of all this anti-Islamic insinuation and innucado, though completely baseless, set off a wave of anti-Islamic and anti-Arab bysteria right across the U.S., which lasted for 48 hours. Any-body of "Middle Eastern appearance", that is with a brown skin, was questioned and barassed; the offices of Arab-American associations were swamped by phoned-in death and bomb tbreats as also Arab-American individuals; Arab-Americans going to mosques were abused and intimidated and the same thing along with personal harassment happened to Arab-American women if they were wearing anything that identified them as Arab, even if they were innocently shopping in a supermarket. It was in a mild, non-violent way a reign of terror which started spontaneously and all over the country and though baseless and hysterical was nevertheless frightening to innocent people.

It made no difference if - as testified to by James Zogby, a well-known Arab-American lcader, that this community in Oklahoma, which particularly came under pressure, was small, integrated, lawabiding and not politically involved. Its members, like Arab-Americans everywhere, discovered that even after being in the U.S. for three or even four generations, they were still regarded as aliens, and bostile ones at that. And all thanks to dever, persistent pro-Israel and anti-Arab and anti-Muslim propaganda.

LETTERS

Doing business in the Middle East and the regional summit in Amman

To the Editor:

THE HARVARD Business School and the John. F. Kennedy School of Government on April 2-4 invited about 300 business managers and government officials from the Middle East, the Arab World. Europe and the U.S. to a seminar to examine business opportunities in the area.

As usual, one would expect that the three-day meeting was extermely well-prepared and well-attended. The various sessions were designed to explore various issues, such as new markets and competitions, government relations, finances, agriculture and communications.

The conferees were addressed by various politicians and business managers from different parts of the world who did not fail to promote their own country at length in front of this important gathering.

I sincerely believe that Jordan was not well presented in this conference. Not only was our number small (six out of 293 attendees, five of wbom were private business people and one government official), we were out numbered by other Arab brethern who, ironically, were more forthcoming and friendly with Israeli business managers although they do not bave any political relations with Israel. One message that one could detect in the seminar is that

some people are trying to eliminate Jordan's role in the

economic development of this region.

What some of my Jordanian collegues and myself found very distressing was that the Jordanian government representative who was given an excellent opportunity to talk about the Middle East and North Africa economic summit. which will be beld in Amman later this year, failed to explain the goals and objectives expected from the summit. This missed opportunity would have also been an excellent one to promote Jordan's role in the region by giving details about our various free zones and the facilities they provide as well as to talk about how foreign companies can participate in the Amman Stock Market and to give more details about the various companies and financial groups

wbich trade in this market. His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan always talk at length about the forthcoming summit in Amman during their visits to foreign countries and discuss it intensively with foreign dignitaries who visit Jordan.

In fact both His Majesty and His Royal Highness have been the major driving force behind this forthcoming

I believe people who will be in charge of preparing for this meeting should have all the goals needed to be achieved clearly identified in order for the meeting to be successful. We do not want to end up talking only about the good spirit of the summit and how hospitable the Jorda-The projects, which we should concentrate on, should

involve human resources development, utilisation of raw materials in joint ventures (if possible), which are both labour intensive and high-tech. That would enhance our exports capability by allowing us to penetrate new markets which have demand for our new/existing produce. Such projects could make Jordan a regional centre.

The task of our representatives in charge of preparing this summit is quite immense and we wish them all the luck in making it successful.

> Hussam Deranieh, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts. NEWS IN I

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Service Charles trained to Section and the season By Thomas Goltz

THERE WAS nothing

Samashki from the dozens

of other settlements of little

red hrick houses in the west

street was usually two inches deep in mad and the

side roads so rutted they

were better negotiated by

tractor than by car. But for

15,000 farmers and small

artisans it was home. Until

For three long nights the

town was pummelled by a

barrage of fire from heavy

gans. Then came the Russian soldiers, 3,000 of them.

spraying shells from their

anks and armoured cars

and tossing grenades indis-

criminately into basements.

The town was captured.

But for survivors of the

initial assault, the night-

mare had just begun.
Old people were gunned

down without mercy as they

emerged from cellars look-

ng for water. Young men,

whose only crime was that

they were of fighting age, were besten, tortured and

executed. Many of the kil-

lers appeared to have been

on drugs: needles and simpoules littered the

Nobody knows for sure

how many people died in

the Russian storming of

Samashki, but international

aid workers have estimated

the pain of the group which the tenorism the pain of the group which the terms
that is why terrorism must
seemed. It takes innocent lives and bing
and danger in everyone on both sides of to my final observation. The perpenter a Chy bombing are still not known a chart it was committed by "Mide the chart it was committed by "Mide the chart it was committed by "Mide the chart in authors to those in a chart in the Masterns of Chaos, Such speculator, both a product of and a contributors Bus et as also based on the tragicands a week in the names of "Arabia"

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LETTERS

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said economic liberalisation, giving Syrian and foreign investors greater chance to use foreign exchange and tax-free status, had created many opportunities for invest-MATERIAL STREET, STREE ment in energy projects and other construction work. MARKET AND STATE OF THE STATE O "Syria is encouraging Europeans to come to invest in the economy, agriculture and tourism," he said. THE PERSON OF TH

Slaughter of the innocent

Drug-taking Russian troops massacre women and children in Chechen town

the death toll as 250, at the very least. Local people believe it is much higher, saying up to 300 were gunned down outside the town by Russian helicopters as they tried to flee through the surrounding forest.

Whatever the final total, it was without doubt one of the bloodiest chapters in the brutal civil war unleashed by President Boris Yeltsin last December, when he sent his army into Chechenya to curh its hid to hreak away from Russia. The Russians seemed to have singled out Samashki to show their ability to break the Chechen will to

resist.
"The excessive use of force against a defenceless, surrounded village is nothing less than genocide," said Alexander Guryanov. a Russian human rights activist. "It is clear we are talking about hundreds of dead, most of whom's were women and children and old people killed like vermin while hiding in cellars."

Coming less than a month before the Kremlin leader is due to meet John Major and other Western leaders in Moscow, it will prove a hig embarrassment for him in his attempt to prove to the world that the worst violence in the trouhled Caucasian region is

Survivors of the assault last week described appalling acts of violence. "When the bombardment began we hid in the cellar and when it stopped the soldiers came in hunting us." said Bekist Abdullayeva, 54, exhaus-tion written on her face. 'Tanks and armoured

vehicles closed our streets and then started shooting, shooting and shooting, destroying and then hurning each house on the street as they went along. When they came to our house, we screamed at them that there were no men with us in the cellar but they threw their lemons (hand grenades) in anyway." Her three daughters were killed in the blasts.

Her neighbour, 39-yearold Raisa Guseinova, lost her seven-year-old son, snatched from her arms by

a hand of "doped-up laughing soldiers" and thrown under the treads of an advancing T-72 battle tank. Then the soldiers demanded she set fire to the remains of her house by igniting a pile of petrolsoaked pillows and bedding. When she was unable to do it, the soldiers com-

pleted the joh for her.

Rana Abmedova's father, a mechanic, was shot as he tried to dive for cover into the pit in which he used to work under his cars. He was wounded by the shots, but they dragged him out, splashed him with petrol and hurned him alive. Her mother and hrother were killed as well. adding to the eight graves at the hack of her shattered house. Rana had begged for mercy. "Please," she had screamed, "there are no soldiers here." But the Russians laughed and kept on

So it went on. Such tales are all too familiar in a war which has been marked by atrocities on both sides. But these words carried particular weight for me: Bekist and the others were my friends.

I bad been living for several weeks in Samashki working on a television documentary, but the bombardment had caught me 10 miles away in Sleptsovsk, on the border with neighbouring Ingushetia, where the shockwaves of the bombings sounded like distant drum rolls.

Like other foreigners, I was prevented by the Russians from coming back to Samashki until Thursday. It was a full week since the army had begun their allout assault on the town, but the soldiers had made little attempt to clear up the evidence of the massacre.

Lying on one street was the decomposing body of a 50-year-old man, ahandoned and unclaimed where he had fallen. I thought I knew him, but could not be sure because

of his shattered face. A short distance away was the man I called "Santa Claus" because of his shy smile beneath a snow-white beard. He was holding open the hurial shrouds of three girls to reveal blackened bone and ash before taking them off to the local cemet-

Survivors were busy at work digging or filling more than 100 fresh graves. It was the first day the Russians had allowed them to bury their dead in family plots. Until then, they had used hack yards and gardens. I counted at least 40 mounds of mud in the houses that I visited. Friends told me there were many more graves behind other houses in town.

There was something strangely irregular about the destruction. Some of the streets of Samashki were completely flattened. hut others nearby had escaped almost unscathed. save a few rocket holes in the roofs of the houses.

The roll-call of the dead was made up almost enorely of the elderly, the helpless and the young. According to my friends in the town, not one of Chechenya's feared proindependence fighters was killed or taken prisoner. There could not have been,

Electronic information a weapon

for the simple reason that not one of them was still in Samashki when the soldiers

Akbmed Amayev, one of the town elders, told me in a hushed and frightened voice within earshot of a group of Russian soldiers, how he and 11 other locals had negotiated the surrender of Samashkhi 10 days ago. "In exchange for our demilitarising the town and allowing an armoured train to pass unmolested, the Russian commander promised not to attack," he said. "We were to be allowed a local police force of 20 armed men. All other militants were to leave the town - or else."

The fighters had been justifiably suspicious. But after intense discussions, they had left Samashki along with their arsenal of several heavy machineguns, a number of automatic rifles, sbotguns and old hunting rifles. As a token of good faith, the elders even handed over eight Kalashnikovs to the main Russian post before allowing the train to enter the town.

Later that evening, the Russian command gave the elders two hours to find and deliver an additional 264 weapons or face a massive air and land bombardment. "We were frantic because most of the fighting men had already left," he recal-led bitterly. "We managed to collect 16 or so guns but then the bombardment be-

Official Russian media portrayed Samashki as a hothath of armed resistance. But in the weeks I spent in the village, support for President Dzhokhar Dudayev and hatred of the Russian army seemed no stronger than elsewhere in the breakaway region.

Even after the killing had ended last week, the tor-ment went on. While my friends were hurying their dead in the cemetery. drunken or drugged Russian soldiers about a mile away were letting off dis-tant volleys of gunfire above their heads.

"Samashki is dead," said Fatima Alikhanova, 70, the matron of the bouse where I had stayed for most of my time in the village. She embraced me and

wept.
Her son, Ussam, corrected her. "It is not just Samashki," he said. "The whole of Chechenya is

Sunday Times

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour Day hollday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed on Monday May 1 in observance of Labour Day, a communique issued Tuesday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said.

'RJ to fly Llbyan pilgrims to Jeddah'

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines will fly Libyan pilgrifus to Sandi Arabia to belp a U.N.-backed Egyptian airlift of Muslims to Mecca, the company's office here said Tuesday. A spokesman in Tripoli said the airline would make 10 flights from Saturday to assist Egypt Air, which has been permitted to fly 6,000 Libyans to Saudi Arabia under a United Nations exemption to the international embargo on Libya. But in Amman, the Jordanian company's commercial department and a senior manager denied the report. It was unclear whether the airline had been given U.N. permission to take part in the airlift.

3 Jordanians held after Philippine attack

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine police have arrested what they describe three Jordanians and a Filipino in connections with a hand-grenade attack on a Roman Catholie church in the southerns Philippines in 1993, the official Philippine News Agency (PNA) said Tuesday. Nedal Saleh Odeh, Mohammad Jubran and his brother Ahmad Jubran, along with a Filipino suspect, Ismael Lumingkit Ali, were detained in the southern city of Davao following police raids which uncovered explosives at their homes, PNA said. It quoted police as saying the four were being held as the primary suspects in the Dec. 26, 1993 grenade attack in Davao's San Pedro Cathedral, in which six churchgoers were killed and 150 were injured. Chief Superintendent Edgar Galvante told reporters the Jordanians were members of Al Gamaa' Al Islamiya, a group waging a war against the secular government of Egypt, PNA reported. It said the Jubran brothers owned a drugstore in Davao while Odeh, who is married to a Filipina, is a medical student.

Israel accuses Arab of spying

TEL AVIV (R) - An Arab Israeli appeared in a Tel Aviv court on Tuesday on charges of spying for the Palestinian self-rule anthority, Israeli security sources said. The man, Talal Abu Rabie,' born in the Gaza Strip town of Deir Al Balah and now a citizen of Israel, allegedly worked for the Israeli Shin Bet secret police. He is accused of giving information on Shin Bet operations to Palestinian security forces while visiting relatives to Gaza four months ago. He also allegedly agreed to work for the self-rule authority as a spy against Israel, Mr. Abu Rabie' denied all charges.

Iran mocks failed U.S. attempt

TEHRAN (R) - Thousands demonstrated in Tehran and other Iranian cities on Tuesday to mark the 15th anniversary of a bungled U.S. attempt to rescue American hostages which Tehran Radio and heralded the decline of "the great satan." The operation to rescue 52 American diplomats and servicemen held hostage in the U.S. embassy by Iranian students was aborted after a belicopter collided with a transport aircraft, killing eight U.S. servicemen, during a sandstorm in a desert location in central Iran. Tehran Radio said Tuesday's demonstrators were led by people on motorcycles carrying Iranian flags. They marched past the building which had boused the U.S. embassy in Tehran and then held a rally outside parliament. Similar marches took place in other cities, the radio

Woman, ex-husband arrested for affair

DUBAI (AFP) - Police arrested a woman and ber ex-hasband in a botel room on charges they were baving an affair, a newspaper in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said. Under questioning, the two told police that they bad been "intimate" nearly two months ago and that the 2I-year-old woman was illegally pregnant, the Gulf News said. The arrests in Dubai occurred after the women's parents had told police that their daughter had disappeared and that they believed she was with her ex-busband, the English-language paper said without giving more details.

Britain, Syria call for closer trade ties

DAMASCUS (AFP) — British Construction Minister Lord Ullswater and his Syrian coninterpart Majed Ezzo Rhibani called Tuesday for closer trade ties between their countries after talks bere, officials said. Mr. Ullswater, leading Britain's first trade delegation to Syria for 10 years, was exploring opportunities for British construction and consulting companies during a three-day visit. Mr. Rhibani

Iraq assembly rejects deal

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Yuri Shafranik ways to develop the West Qurna and North Rumeilah fields. We expect to sign a protocol today," he said,
"They (Russians) are our

friends and our relations with them are good," he said, adding the fields could produce one million bpd if developed. Mr. Jawad said Iraq had

reached "a very advanced stage in (striking) deals with French firms to develop Manoon and Nahr Omar," fields with an investment of \$7 billion.

France's Total is close to reaching agreement to develop the giant Nahr Omar field with capacity to produce 400,000 bpd if sanctions are lifted. ELF Aquitaine is linked to the 600,000 hpd Majnoon field, which Iraq says holds 38 hillion barrel reserves.

Muasher visits Orient House

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Muasher expressed disappointment about Israel's limping peace talks with the

"A vast majority of Jordanians link (Jordanian) prog-ress with Israel to the Palestinians," Dr. Muasber said. He said unresolved questions like the future of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, as well as the Kingdom's continuing economic hardship, have dampened Jordanians'

enthusiasm for peace. "We are witnessing a difficult transition period from making peace to actually liv-ing it... Jordan had high ex-pectations that the peace treaty would result in economic relief, but many economic benefits the treaty called for have not materialised." *For example, he said, promised water has not been delivered because there is no money to huild a dam.

Under the peace deal, Israel agreed for Jordan to lift an extra 215 million cubic metres of water from regional rivers each year. But to do so, dams would bave to be huilt at a cost of \$500 million and so none of the extra water had been taken.

Even after United States has wiped off Jordan's debt to Washington by the end of the year, Amman will still bave a 100 per cent debt to GDP ratio, the envoy said. Jordan and Israel were

working closely with United States and Europe for regional development, and the Amman Economic Conference in October, a year after the historic meeting in Casablanca, was expected to give a huge boost.

Dr. Muasher also complained many Jordanians were being denied visas by Israel. He did not provide more details.

By Grant Peck

The Associated Press BANGKOK - In the jungles of eastern Burma, oppo-

neuts of the country's military junta find themselves outmanned and outgunned. But in Cyherspace, the realm of the internet, therebels have computer technology on their side.
"The Burmese regime

has gotten away with so much because they control the information," said "Strider," the pseudony-mous moderator of the hurmanet electronic mailing list. "They can't do that anymore.

Armed with computers, odems and interne accounts, hundreds of social and political activists around the globe are waging propaganda wars on the anthoritarian regimes of Asia. Groups elsewhere are also active, such as Palestinians opposed to the Israeli occupation and Sandis opposed to King Fahd. The voices of Asian dissi-

dents circulate via electromic mailing lists, which deliver messages to subscribers quicker and more often than printed publications. The information also is distributed through usenet electronic forums that most internet users can check into at will.

Recently, activists have started electronically archiving their information so it can be read using

in Asia's battles for freedom internet search tools such as "gopber" and the world wide web.

Because closed societies usually lack the latest technological tools, exiles, expatriates and foreign friends are manning most of the electronic front lines. But more locals are becoming involved — both as pushers of their causes on the internet and recipients of hitherto unavailable information.

Strider's burmanet mailing list, begun last year, tilts at the military junta that seized power in Rangoon in 1988 and exhibits little inclination to restore demo-

basis, Burmanet's 250 direct subscribers in 15 countries — and several thousand people who receive its reports via usenet news groups - can read Strider's dispatches called from Bangkok newspapers, communiques from rebel groups and on-the-spot re-

Burmanet's reports are also sunggled on diskettes into Burma where they are printed out and distributed clandestinely. There are no connections to the internet inside Burma. While communist die

hard North Korea is still off the screen, internet connections in China and Vietnam have expanded recently in tacit concession to the realities of doing business in the

China opened its first In-ternet link just two years ago, and now perhaps a dozen sites are connected. Plans for a domestic educa-

100 universities in 10 cities by 1996, will extend the links considerably. China's phone company announced April 12 it will begin processing applications for In-ternet connections in May.

tional network, to connect

Rohin Munro, Hong Kong director of the New York-based group Human Rights Watch-Asia, does not think dissidents inside China make wide use of the Internet. But it is conceivable that "some brave souls

be said. In Vietnam, a shoestring e-mail operation, Vietnam academic research and edncational network, has been joined by a second service, Netnam, "funded by foreign aid money and geared toward international companies," according to the Hanoi newspaper Vietnam

Investment Review.
"The Chinese and others want Internet because it is such a valuable business tool," Strider said. "But if they open up to husiness, they cannot keep ont

The news is ready and waiting. During the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989, overseas Chinese students and scholars established what is now possibly the world's largest electronic mailing list, China News Digest.

Fifty volunteers turn out 14 on-line publications under its aegis, which last year were sent out to more than 34,000 e-mail addresses in 43 countries. They provide news of China, as well as academic, social and practical information for overseas Chinese, Mainstream electronic

activism by overseas Vietnamese consists primarily of circulating petitions or raising money for "boat people" refugees and suing statements of protests over mistreatment of dissidents, said Stephen based Vietnam scholar acrive on the Internet.

"Some actively promote improved U.S.-Vietnam relations and exchanges others seek the overthrow of the Vietnamese government," Mr. Denney said.

Burmanet subscribers include virtually every academic involved in Burmese studies, a number of U.S. government officials and the Burmese embassy in Washington, Mr. Strider

There was some debate among Burmanet members over allowing the embassy to subscribe. Strider sohcited on-line opinions, and in the free-speech tradition of the Internet, the overwhelming consensus was to "let them on."

Reacting to Strider's efforts, the embassy began in December to post news from Burma's statecontrolled press on the In-

John MacDougall, a for-mer U.S. diplomat who for years has published reports about Indonesia, now also uses the Internet to get out information.

His Indonesia-L mailing dist also has an open attitude on information. "The list policy is pluralism," the guidelines say, in an apparent dig at the threedecade-old regime of President Suharto, which clamps down regularly on public expressions exhibiting any

MacDongall's operation contains both Indonesian and English language materials and draws heavily on other Internet resources. particularly e-mail dial-up networks maintained inside Indonesia hy nongovernmental organisa-

nons. Strider and MacDongall both use the resources of the San Francisco-based Institute for Global Communications to disseminate

their news. The nonprofit organisation is allied with likeminded groups to provide, it says, "the most extensive global communication network in the world dedicated specifically to serving NGOs and citizen activists working for social change."

tured to death and called for international intervention to

halt "these policies that are

leading to the murder of de-

The government-

ission ruled in 1987 that

appointment Landau com-

Shin Bet interrogators could

use moderate physical

New details of suspect emerge

(Continued from page 1)

cials said rescue crew were hiterally using buckets — as opposed to heavy machinery

bodies of victims as intact as possible. They estimated search efforts could last into next

to clear away small chunks

of debris in order to keep the

week. News organisations meanwhile reported that the jailed snspect in the attack, McVeigh, has refused so far to answer any questions ab-

out the bombing.
McVeigh, a 27-year-old former soldier and decorated veteran of the Gulf war, remained stone-faced even when shown photographs of children who were maimed and killed in the blast, the reports said.

The arrest of McVeigh was announced Friday. He had been stopped by police on a traffic violation north of Oklahoma City just 90 mitrutes after the bomb exploded. He was then found to be

carrying a concealed weapon and was detained. He languished, bowever, for nearly two days in jail before authorities realised who he was. McVeigh's mother meanwhile issued a statement saying she had not been in

"It's going to be real grim contact with her son for a work," Mr. Keating said.
Mr. Hansen and other offi-dolences over the attack.

"I just want to say I feel deep sympathy for victims and families involved in the Oklahoma City bombing," she said, according to CNN

Mark Koernke, a leader in

the paramilitary movement whose name had come to light in media reports following the bombs, denied he knew McVeigh and distanced himself from the Oklahoma attack.

"We do not condone what happened in Oklahoma City because that was in fact an act of terrorism," said John Stadtmiller, who, along with Mr. Roemite, hosted a short wave radio programme Mon-

Mr. Koernke, 37, however, admitted that his group had sent a cryptic fax to a Texas congressman the morning of the bombing that apparently referred to Oklahoma City and a bomb attack.

The fax was at first considered a possible clue to the identities of the attackers. Mr. Koernke told reporters in Dexter, Michigan on

Monday, however, that he the death. had contacted the FB1 each day since Saturday and that they had "interest in talking" to him.

Hamas vows revenge for death

(Continued from page 1)

ly treated during interroga-tion," said a member of the Centre for the Defence of the Individual, an Israeli human

ris ts or diction.

Military officials, who refused to be named, said Harizát was a senior figure in the armed wing of Hamas who was in contact with the three men shot dead by the army in Hebron on April 16.

"My brother was pious and divided his time between work and the mosque," said Ahdullah, a 32-year-old shopkeeper in Hebron. He denied that Harizat was

a member of Hamas "or any other organisation." Abdullah admitted that his brother had been detained by israel for three months in 1993 and for one month in January this year, but refused

to say why.

Using the language of militants, Abdullah said in Arabic: "We will not mourn but rejoice because my brother died a martyr." Abdullah was allowed to

visit Abdul Samad in hospital on Monday and said he was unconscious and had bruises on his head and shoulders. The justice ministry announced an inquiry into

According to the Palestinian-run Mandela Institute, which monitors prison conditions, Harizat was I prime mover hehind the

the 35th Palestinian prisoner to die during or after interrogation since the Palestinian

uprising against Israeli rule began in 1987. The Israeli human rights group Betselem puts the number at only nine, nowever. The reason for the discrepancy was not clear.

Hanan Ashrawi, who heads the independent Palestinian Commission for Citizen Rights, also said it appeared Harizat was tor-

pressure" to extract informa-tion. Following the recent wave of attacks, Mr. Rabin eased restrictions on interrogations still further as part of a crackdown on Islamic

OPIC — source for financing

(Continued from page 1)

years - at best.' Mr. Finn said OPIC financing is extended on commercompete with commercial banks." He also noted that there was no commercial bank available in the region to help finance many of the

cost tens of millions of dollars. Mr. Finn also explained that a \$75 million pledge that

projects, which individually

President Bill Clinton made for regional economic development in an Oct. 26 speech to the Jordanian Parliament was going to a "re-gional equity fund" of \$250 million to help private sector investment.

An American hank is the.

fund, "most of which will be spent in Jordan," said Mr.

Finn. OPIC extends insurance up to 50 per cent of the capital against political violence, strife and resurrection, expropriation by state," and inconvertibility of curren-

However, the terms of coverage cannot be general and have to clearly spelt out,

While the first two coverages, "political violence, strife and resurrection" and 'expropriation by the state" are self-explanatory, "inconvertibility of currency" means the imposition of currency controls by the host governments, thus rendering the investors to convert their profits or capital to foreign exchange.

Clinton

says dollar

weakness

of deficit

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

- President Clinton says

keeping the federal deficit

he won't approve tax cuts

that threaten the currency's

down is the best way to bolster the weak dollar and vows

result

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New WTO head hails role Africans of developing nations

TOKYO (R) — Renato Ruggiero, the first head of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO), said Tuesday tbat developing countries should play a bigger role in the global trade body.

The role that developing countries had — especially the countries of East Asia in the last recession of industrialised countries has been very important and very positive, so we bave to strengthen their participation," he told a

news conference. Mr. Ruggiero, who formally takes office as the WTO's first director-general next Monday, said this was a priority issue that the trade body needed to address.

He was on a three-day visit to Japan to exchange views on trade and economic issues with Japanese government leaders.

Mr. Ruggiero was optimistic on the question of China and Taiwan's membership in the WTO, which has 128 present and pending mem-

"I hope that we can find a good solution in good time for both these countries," be said, adding that the applications by the two countries would be treated separately.

China failed to become a WTO member by Jan. 1, when the trade body was launched, because the United States, the European Union and Japan blocked Beijing's bid on the grounds that its balf-liberalised economy was not eligible.

Taiwan's early entry into

the WTO bas been controversial partly because Beijing views Taiwan as a

renegade province of China. On the longstanding dispute over auto trade between Japan and the United States, Mr. Ruggiero said the WTO did oot exclude bilateral deliberations as long as the agreement reached extended to other countries.

'The system that we have... is not a system which excludes the bilateral disputes," be said.

Mr. Ruggiero said he hoped a conclusion satisfactory to both parties would be reached. He declined to comment directly on the threat of sanctions by the United States, saying that sometimes strong arguments were made in trade disputes.

OPEC chief demands bigger share of oil market

KUWAIT (R) — OPEC's secretary-general said Monday the group could plunge the oil market into chaos if it abandoned output restraint, urging independent producers who have eroded its share to cooperate to steady prices.

Rilwanu Lukman, in blunt remarks signalling frustration with OPEC's traditional role as market stabiliser, told an oil conference in the Gulf emirate of Kuwait that his 12-member group was losing share to non-OPEC states, and this could oot continue,

"If, for the sake of argumeot, OPEC were to forgo its stabilising role and behave in the same way as our friends in ooo-OPEC, the results are clearly going to be catastrophic," be said. "The chaos that would ensoe would be hard to imagine and all actors in the field would in fact suffer. That is why cooperation is imperative.

The Organisation of Pet-

(OPEC) wanted cooperation with independents to replace attempts to move the market merely through the setting of

OPEC, which accounts for 76 per cent of world oil reserves but only 41 per cent of world production, bas long said it has done its part to prop up the market by freezing its output ceiling at 24.52 million barrels per day since September 1993.

Now it is the turn of independent producers to take some of the responsibility for supporting prices, Mr. Luk-

"For decades there bas been a gross imbalance in OPEC's reserve base and its sbare of world output. A perpetuation of this imbalance is oot in anyone's longterm interest," be said.

"OPEC has beld its output level for the past three years or so to stabilise the market while others continue to increase their levels of produc-

tion. This situation, which condemns OPEC to a dwindling spiral, cannot of course cootinue indefinitely," he

OPEC bad a major role to play in stabilising the market but a sense of equity in shar-ing the returns had to prevail.

Mr. Lukman also criticised energy taxes plans oil consuming countries as discriminatory and said they could dramatically influence oil demand. Taxes were aimed more at balancing budget deficits in consumer states than protecting the environment.

Many OPEC states, includmg its Arab Gulf big guns, face budget deficits and cash flow problems due to low oil

Their income from oil exports to the West already accounts for less than onethird of the price paid by coosumers. The rest goes mostly in taxes to the governments of consuming states.

British growth surges ahead reinforcing interest rates fear

LONDON (R) - Britain's economy grew strongly in the first quarter of the year, snrprising analysts who expected it to slow significantly and increasing the prospects of an early rise in interest rates.

Official figures released Tuesday showed gross domestic prodoct rose 0.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year for year-on-year growth of 3.9 per ceot.

That compared with economists forecasts' of a 0.5 per cent rise in the quarter for a 3.6 per cent year-on-year Greenwell economist Iao

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WHY DON'T

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Peanuts

rise. In the last quarter of 1994 the economy grew 4.2

per cent on the year.

Despite the mixed signals emerging from the economy, growth is still runoing way ahead of average growth over the past four decades of 2.25 per cent.

To slow it down, the government and central bank look almost certain to push

interest rates up again. "It would now be very surprising indeed if rates did not rise next week. HSBC

FUNNY THAT ANDY — LAS NIGHT I DREAMT WE

WERE HAVING A GAME

Shepherdsoo said. "Credibility is at stake for the Bank (of England) and the government and any failure to act after these numbers could prove expensive," he said, warning that the government must continue to make pre-emptive strikes against inflation.

However, the Confederation of British Industry employers organisation was more cautious, saying the authorities shoud wait for more evidence before moving in-

terest rates.

call for reforms to bolster tourism

NAIROBI (R) — Zambia's Tourism Minister urged African leaders Monday to speed up economic liberalisation inclinding monetary reforms and easing transport and immigration controls to build tourism between the continent's regions.

The minister, Lieutenant-General Christone Tembo. who is also interntional board president of the New Yorkbased Africa Travel Associarion (ATA), said it was imperative for Africans to remove regional barriers to make their countries attrac-

"There are such barriers as immigration, visa, currencies. These things need to be negotiated and resolved to encourage regional tourism. We are following these up through diplomatic channels." he told Reuters.

"There is political will at the moment. Africa has begun to democratise and liberalise. The atmosphere now is much better than three to four years ago. The future appears very bright," be pointed out.

ATA, which mainly promotes Africa as a tourist destination for Americans and Canadians, is holding its 20th congress in Nairobi.

Formed in 1975, ATA draws its membership from many African governments, international airlines, boteliers, cruise lines, tour operators and travel agents and American tour promoters. Mr. Tembo said ATA bad

started to pursue the idea of regionalising the group and hoped that would be achieved by early next year. A secretariat would be set up in Africa and the ATA agenda would be implemented faster, he said.

Kenyan Tourism Minister Kataoa Ngala complained Africa's image was battered by what he called unbalanced reporting oo the continent by the foreign media and called for "complementary and unbiased coverage projecting Africa positively."

Tourism has become the main foreign exchange earner for many African countries, including Kenya. The number of visitors has fallen in recent years because of ethnic conlifct in Africa.

Tourism bertween African countries is minimal because of currency and visa laws in many of the countries.
"The need for greater

cooperation on a regional basis is even more pertinent today and the emergency of multi-destination travel calls for such cooperation," Mr. Ngala said.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A BORN LOSER -GET'S BEATEN EVEN WHEN HE'S DREAMING

IF I JUMP

DURING A BAD DREAM, HE

KEEPS ME FROM

JUMPING TOO

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COME ON

NO,THANKS

Egypt committed to selling natural gas to Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) - Egypt has officially informed Israel of its willingness to sign an agreement for natoral gas supplies, Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev said Tuesday.

have had an official Egyptian commitment to sell us gas, Mr. Segev said.

The commitment came in the form of a letter to Mr. Segev from Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi El Banbi following the Israeli minister's trip to Cairo earlier this

In his letter, the Egyptian minister said be expected development plans for the gas fields to be finalised within the next few months.

Mr. Segev said Israel and Egypt hope to sign a memorandum of understanding by the end of 1995 that would regulate quantities and price.

Israel is interested in buying the natural gas equivalent of 2.0 million tonnes of oil from Egypt and hopes supplies will begin before the end of the decade.

The natural gas will be transported to Israel via a pipeline that will run from the gas field in Egypt's Delta region across the Sinai desert to Israel. On the Egyptian side, Ita-

ly's AGIP and Amoco will operate the gas fields and pipeline in conjunction with gypt's state oil company.

No decision has been taken on who will operate the pipeline on the Israeli side, ministry sources said. Dozens of Israeli and foreign companies have expressed interest in the project.

According to initial estimates, the pipeline will cost about \$500 million.

Mr. Segev also said that negotiations are continuing with other suppliers for natural gas. Israel has been holding talks with Oatar and Turkmenistan.

Egypt is currently Israel's largest supplie of crude oil. Israel buys 2.0 million tonnes a year on a contractual basis and additional quantities of Egyptian crude on the spot market. It imports a total of some 12 million tonnes of oil

national Monetary Fund

(IMF) must have "more

generons and rapidly-

available credit facilities" to

counter potential financial

crises in emerging econo-

mies, or that "generous SDR

Mexico had demonstrated

the need for a more efficient

"early warning system" and

what was needed was stron-

ger IMF surveillance, he said.

additional international li-

quidity but there was "a long-

term global need for sound

policies," Mr. Tietmeyer

There was no need for

allocations" could help.

In an interview with the Des Moines Register published Tuesday, the president attributed the dollar's decline in value against the yen to factors internal to Japan's economy and investor demands for signs that the government is serious about de-Tietmeyer lectures U.S.: Cut your

ficit reduction. There's all this uncertain; ty now because a \$200 billion tax cut passed the House with no budget passing to show the deficit will continue to go

down." Mr. Clinton said. "Once the financial markets see that I am serious, that we're not about to have a \$200 billion tax cut and we're certainly not about to have a tax cut....that is basically an add-on to this deficit...then they will stabilise and go for-ward," he added.

The president told the Register that part of the problem with the dollar. which is down about 18 per cent against the yen from early January levels, lies with

Japan.
"Japan has an enormous trade surplus, but they are bringing their money back home because they have some banks and other things that need their money," Mr. Clinton said. "And when that happens, that's going to change the currency values and there's not much... you can do.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be certain to bandle financial affairs which are important loday and show you are sensible, then later tonight you can socialise with close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) First do something to improve your health and then go after the personal and business aims which mean

much to you. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Set pace with a new campaign you have worked out today which will take you straight to your goals and

you attain them. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Confide your aims in a good friend and gain cooperation so they are easier to attain today.

Weigh a decision carefully. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get your outside business handled today in a way that you can get ahead very quickly during the

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You gain fine new ideas which should be improved today with the advice of bigwigs, so be sure to

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your obligations nicely met during the day today and then get off to new sites tonight. Meet

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The spirit of compromise is best with that person who is as stubborn as you. Come to a fine

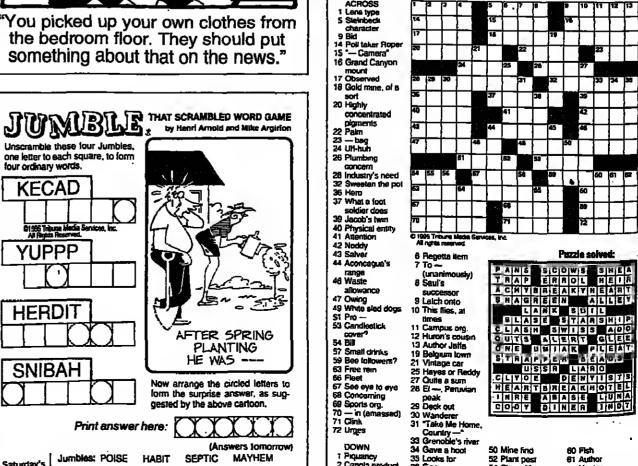
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into your work duties enthusiastically early today and they are soon behind you. Socialise with good friends in the evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can enjoy recreation during the day today, and then you can do your activities in the evening for a change.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into all those fundamental affairs which can improve your way of life during the day today. Relax tonight with close friends and associates. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can gad about and get much completed during the day today, as well as get into new interests. Spend time at home tonight with your mate.

Birthstone of April: Diamond - Amethyst

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia Yates



budget deficit to strengthen dollar WASHINGTON (AFP) cial management, made it The Bundesbank chief said clear that it must be up to adequate capital formation German central bank Presiwas a major precondition for dent Hans Tietmeyer Tueseach country to put its econoday said a "reliable" policy to inflation-free growth, and enmic house in order. suring enough saving to meet investment needs depended cut the U.S. budget deficit would be the "most impor-"Our prime objective must be to guarantee the soundness of national economic largely on sound fiscal policy. tant starting point" for durably overcoming the dol-Mr. Tietmeyer also retrends and economic policy, jected the idea that the Inter-

lar's current weakness.

Mr. Tietmeyer, here for a meeting of finance ministers and central bank presidents from the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial na-tions, said a lasting stabilisa-tion of the dollar, the leading reserve currency, 'would be in the interest not only of the U.S. but of the world economy.

Addressing a conference of American economists and bankers two hours before the opening of the G-7 talks, he said the U.S. needed to boost domestic public and private saviog "as a basis for (an) increasing, and durable

prosperity."
While U.S. plans to cut taxes might be important, "it is even more essential to devise and apply... a convincing strategy to reduce budget de-ficits." Mr. Tietmeyer said.

These deficits were absorbing the greater part of U.S. private saving and had caused (U.S.) external habi lities to soar" over the past 15 years, he reminded his audi-

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin Monday dismissed criticism from most of the other G-7 countries — Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan for the slow progress of the U.S. fiscal consolidation effort, claiming the U.S. de-

ficit was the lowest in the Mr. Tietmeyer, who commented at length on Germany's own pursuit of monetary stability and sound finanbe asserted. The Bundesbank's move to

cut interest rates on March 30 was not motivated by the turbulence on the foreign exchanges, he said. We did not pursue an

exchange rate objective... it was done for domestic reasons" although the Bundesbank viewed the shifts in the value of key currencies as 'excessive.' Mr. Tietmeyer said it was

'essential" that countries with "undervalued currencies regain greater credibility in the international financial markets.

This, he said, required a "credible" policy approach focussing on "correcting the fundamental problems." A monetary policy geared to stability was "naturally im-

portant" but could not alone solve such fundamental issues as "unduly low saving ratios and structural budget and current account problems,' he added. Mr. Tietmeyer said it was

not difficult to finance external deficits through capital inflows as long as the international markets trusted a country's ability and willingness to remedy its problems. But, "if this confidence

evaporates, there may be sudden and dramatic changes in capital flows" and hence in exchange rates, he said. pointing to the Mexican cri-The stability of exchange

rates was in the long run determined only by the market's confidence in a currency, Mr. Tietmeyer said.



You picked up your own clothes from the bedroom floor. They should put something about that on the news."



Clinton says dollar weakness result er marine i of deficit litters

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A review

of economic news

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the southerness and standard Registers to the property of the ## GEOLOGISTS PLAN to stage a sit-in in front of the action opening the go Prime Ministry on Tuesday to press for their demands for a 90 per cent allowance of the and investor sense along basic salary similar to government doctors, engineers. pharmacists and others. The frage and this unce geologists are also demanding a solution to unemploy-Passing the House Passing to service with common ment within their ranks. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazeh said the ministry would be requesting owners of quartes to employ a geologist at each quarry (A)

> ## BETWEEN THE period May 27 and early December of this year, Jordan will participate in 25 international fairs. During the same period, the Kingdom will host more than 15 local and Arab fairs and exhibitions as well as other events where international companies will be displaying their products. Among the fairs that Jordan will be taking part in will be held in Russia, Japan, Syria, Poland, Greece, Belgium. Algeria, Oman, Iraq. Ukraine, Germany, Lebanon and Britain. Among the countries which will be displaying their products in Jordan are Germany, Malaysia, Canada and Britain (Al

THE WATER Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is owed a total of about JD 9 million by the public and about JD 5. million by official and public institutions and department as of the end of March 1995. The WAJ collected JD 29.3 million last year compared to JD 28 million in 1993. With a total of 548.085 subsenbers, the authority sold 98 million cubic metres of water last year, a six per cent increase over the volume supplied to subscribers in 1998 with simple calculation, the volume of water pumped per individual turns out to be 142 litres per day (Al Ra i).

☆★ THE JORDAN Trade Facilities Company (JTFC) has obtained the necessary ne. 17 miles no ne 11 miles no esperatore. Miles estas la composition de la composition della composit preliminary approval to use its building in Sweifiyeh as a 3-star hotel. The building has the second of th about 100 rooms provided with full services in addition to a vest commercial com-plex. JTFC has recently sold half of the project to the Jordan Financial Investments Company for JD 1.2 million Man days a second of the second and both companies will manage the hotel and the commercial complex (Al

> ** A ROYAL Decree approved an amendment to the regulation for issuing Jordanian banknote, Under the amendment, the words The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" will appear on all Jordanian banknotes in addition to the words "the Central Bank of Jordan" (Al

★★ THE MINISTER of post and communications requested the company operating the ceilular phone network to reduce the price of phone calls. He said his request came in response to nany remarks he received ndicating that charging 240 fils per call during daytime and 160 fils per call at nights was too costly. The minister said the company will reconsider the charges before starting operations expected with-in few months (Al Dustour).

★ THE ARAB Electrical andustries Company reporded JD 2.49 million of ales since the company bean operations in May 1994 Intil the end of 1994 with Properational costs at JD 2.04 million, gross profit mounted to JD 450,900 last ear. Expors, which totalled D 1.81 million, or 73 per ent of total sales, went to laly, Cyprus, Nigeria and ther European countries (Al

Bank bans 90 types of responses in battle against rude service

BEIJING (AP) — A Bank battling China's notoriously bad service has told its employees they can no longer use 90 "uncivilised" responses, such as: "Can't you see I'm

Other banned phrases include "I don't know," "That's not my responsibility," "What's the rush?" "Wait over "If you don't like it, talk to the management," and "go complain if you want to complain."

The measures went into effect last August at one bank branch in Linan, in the northeast coastal province of Shandong. The city's industrial and commercial bank has decided to extend the ban to all of its 13 branches, affecting more than 200 employees.

The idea of the customer being king is alien to many service-oriented enterprises in China.

Store clerks are too busy chatting with colleagues or reading newspapers to be bothered with helping customers. Phone inquiries routinely result in being hung up on. Bank procedures can be complicated and confusing

requiring multiple steps for something as simple as making a deposit or withdrawal. Tellers frequently refuse to look up when customers try to ask for instructions or help. Party of the problem stems from China's communist system of the past 45 years, under which serving others is considered demeaning. That attitude has started to change in recent years, particularly in enterprises that deal with

European lines increase shipping rates

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - Fifteen sbipping companies announced Monday a new increase in rates as of May 1 to compensate for losses incurred because of the deterioratiog value of the dollar.

The currency adjustment factor (CAF) will rise from eight per cent to 9.5 per cent, said an announcement issued by the Europe Middle East Rate Agreement, or EMERA. The CAF is calculated on the basis of the cost of the

The lines had raised CAF rates from seven per cent to 7.5 per cent in March.

EMERA's 15 members are CMA, CMBT, Contship, DSR Lines, Ellerman, Hapag Lloyd, Himalay Express, Maersk, NCHP, Nedlloyd, Norasia, P and OCL, Sealand, Senator Line and the United Arab Shipping Co.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



U.S. Dollar in International Ma	rkees	-
Currency	New york Close Dair 24/4/95	Tokyo Close Dair 25/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6045	1.6088**
Deutsche Mark	1.3760	1.3753
Swiss Franc	1.1405	1.1370**
French Franc	4.8625	4.8480**
Japanese Yen	83.10	85,35
Енгореал Сигтепу (Inil	1.5420	1,3358**
ISD Per STG		

Eurocurrency Interest Ri	Date: 25/4/1995			
Ситтепсу	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	L2 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.43	6.06	_ 6.25
Sterling Pound	_ 6.0ŝ	6.50	6.81	7.31
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.43	4.68
Swise Franc	3,18	3.25	3.37	3.43
French Franc	7.81	7.68	7.31	6.95
Japanese Yen	1,25	1.25	1.25	1.25
European Currency Unit	_6.81	b.25	6.37	0.56

Precious Metals			Date: 25/4/1995				
	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
	Gold	390.35	7.60	Silver	5.63	0.132	

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1,1001	1.1056
Deutsche Mark	0.4984	0.5009
Swiss Franc	0.6010	0.6040
French Franc	0.1410	0.1417
Japanese Yen [*]	0.8224	0.8265
Datch Guilder	0.4451	0.4473
Swedish Krona	4-14-1	******
lulian Lira :	0.0404	0.0406
Belgian Franc		*****

Dither Cultercies	Date	Date: 25/4/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Babraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8240		
Lebanese Lira	0.041050	0.042000		
Saedi Riyal	. 0.1828	0.1839		
Kowaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1878	0.1895		
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2080		
Omani Riyal	1.7780	1.7950		
UAE Dirkam	0.1862	0.1880		
Greek Dractima	0.2960	0.3270		
Cyprist Pound	1.4500	1.5520		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

5.3929/79

\$1.6078/88

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3628/38 1.3692/02 1.5338/48 1.1340/50 28.17/21 4.8350/00 1696.0/1.0 82.60/70 7.3875/75 6.1690/40

One ounce of gold \$390.10/390.50

One sterling

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

JEA hopes to award Aqaba tenders next month

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) hopes to announce the awarding of four tenders related to expanding the Aqaba Thermal Power Station next month after financiers give their approval, according to the head of the authority.

The proposed addition of two 130-megawatt generators to the Aqaba station is key to Jordan's long-term plans to meet the rising demand for energy. The Aqaba station already has two 130megawatt generators and the expansion was originally planned in 1990 but was deferred when gas was found near the border with Iraq.

However, with the 10 per cent unexpected addition to the population with the return of expatriates following the Gulf crisis as well as a rise in industrial consumption of energy, the JEA revived the Aqaba expansion project last

The delay in the project from 1990 to 1994 is believed to have cost the JEA \$50 million in terms of natural rise in costs. In 1990, the estimated cost was around \$250 million; today it is \$300 million.

Mobammad Arafeb, director-general of the authority, said the contracts were supposed to have been announced in December but were delayed because financiers had not completed their review of the bids.

"We hope that we would be able to announce the tenders in three weeks from now," Mr. Arafeh told the Jordan Times. "If we do not do that then we will face serious trouble in schedules."

Financing for the project is coming from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, the Japanese government, and the World Bank in addition to local sources. The foreign component of financing is \$180 million and the rest in the form of local infrastructure and logistic support.

It was believed that the concerned Japanese government authorities had not completed their review of the contract documents. Such a review is a key condition for the \$131 million Japanese loan for the project.

Parsons Brickerhoff Inc., a U.S. firm, is acting as the project consultants for the

The government has signed a \$115 million loan accord with the Arab fund and another agreement with the Japanese government for \$131 million for the project. The Islamic Development Bank is also financing the project, but the loan amount was not immediately known.

The World Bank is extending another loan of \$80 million to improve the efficiency of the Kingdom's energy sec-

The JEA will use part of the loans to build the Agaba part of a linkage between the power grids of Jordan and Egypt as the forerunner of a regional network that would eventually include all the Arab countries east of the Suez Canal - Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

When the Aqaba expansion is completed, Jordan will have an installed capacity of 1,136 megawatts; the JEA share of it will be 1,026 mega-

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BANK CENTER AMMA - SEMEISANI TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUSEDAY 25/04/1995

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	JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15400	74419	4.290	4-810
	BANK OF JORDAN	800	3032	3.820	3.790
	HIDOLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	1200	2535	1.450	1.400
	THE BOUGGE STATE OF SELECTION O	6400	18320	2.860	2.840
	JORDAN YING DANK	7896	60912	7.230	. 7.710
	JORDAN GITT.P HANT	1046	3090	2.990	2.960
	ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BARY	12350	17422	1.430	1.420
	JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	13900	54940	3.260	4.050
	BUBINESS BANK	6450	26575	4-250	4-120
	HEIT ELMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3050	11139	2.720	3.550
	APPAN BARK FOR INVESTMENT	96150	131141	1.390	1.360
	PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	122196	256365	2-040	2.010
	BANKS SECTOR	304726	749519	INDEX NU	MBBR: 162.41
	JORDAN THETTRANCE				
	GENERAL ARARIA THETTPAHER	150	496	3.300	3.300
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	4622 FF = 55 = 44 = 44 5 = 4 4 = 4 4 = 4 4 4 4	12400	32300	2.660	2.620
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	JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	61995	111037	1 270	1 780
	JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	161263	274840	1.680	1.700
	JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	200	2205	7.200	7-250
	APAR INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY	100	680	6.200	6.200
	JORDAN NATIONAL SCIENCES	750	5325	7.150	7-100
	MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1300	3917	3.140	3.020
	MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	2750	1960	490	2.290
	JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	650	6592	10.150	10.150
	UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	32900	88123	2.700	2.680
	ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7170	24550	3.250	2.450
	SERVICES SECTOR	277386	539267	INDEX NUM CHANGE	BER: 143.44 : -0.132
	JORDAN TORACCO & CTCARDONA				همور وجادان کی کاک
	ATTANOSEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	4150	1270	25.900	25.400
	THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	76749	259160	3 290	3 340
	JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	244	8058	9.620	9.530
	THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	644	2348	3.700	3.650
	ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	6156	26124	4.280	4.260
	SPINNING E WEAVING	1600	4413	2.770	2.750
	DAR AL CAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4810	39760	2.550	2.070
	ARAB INVESTMENT & INTRNATIONAL TRADE	27000	24415	.920	.900
	ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	1309	9542	7.350	7.200
	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	22800	15614	- 680	. 680
	ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	10550	15521	1.530	1.480
	JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	8600	26619	3.190	2.040
	ALADOIN INDOSTRIES	400	1760	4.250	4.400
	JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIHCO	6800	4284	-640	.630
	NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2250	11818	5.200	5.250
	JORDAN SULPHO-CHENICALS	3250	6078	1.270	1.270
	ANAB CENTER FOR PHARM. E CHEMICALS	4850	12479	2.620	2.520
	UNIVERSAL MODERN INDOSTRIES	500	1800	3.740	3.600
	JORDAN INDOSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	72950	180747	2.240	2.230
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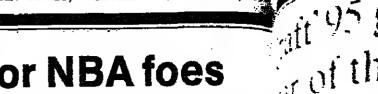
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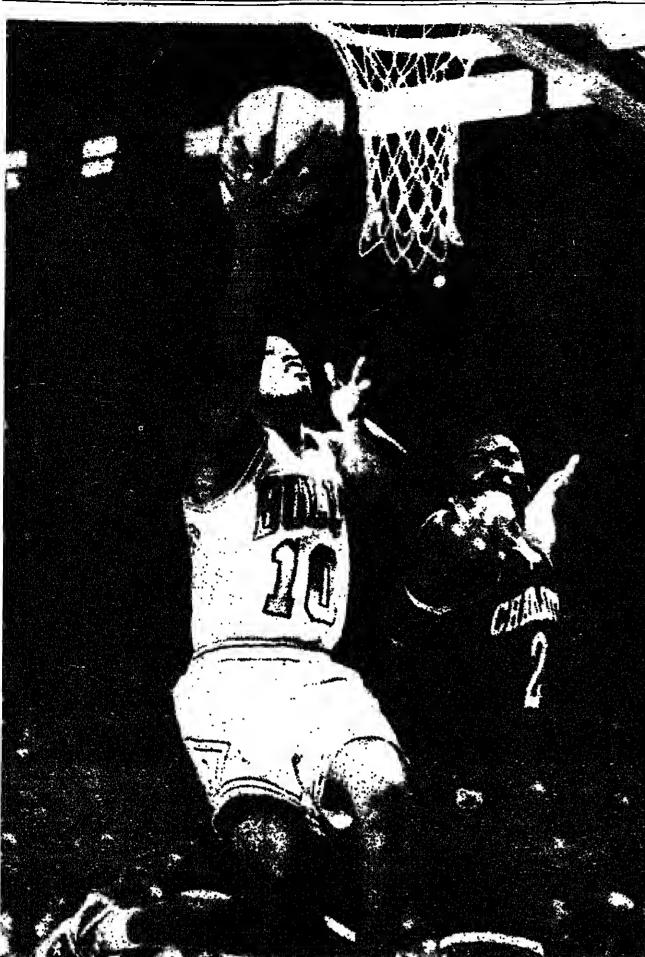






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Chicago Bulls guard B.J. Armstrong (left) drives for the basket around the coverage of Charlotte Hornets forward Larry Johnson (AFP photo)

O'Neal easily beats Olajuwon and Robinson for NBA scoring title

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a good thing Shaquille O'Neal didn't let the NBA scoring title come down to the last game of the season.

A LEST HE PER HE COLLEGE FOR BOARD LOS FAU LES COMBUNES DE LOS FORMES DE COLLEGE POR LA COLLEGE PORT.

The Orlando centre spent 7g games making sure there wouldn't be a repeat of last season, when be fell victim to David Robinson and the 71 points he scored against the Los Angeles Clippers in 1993-94's final game.

Despite scoring only 13 points in the Magic's season finale Sunday, O'Neal's 29.3 average was enough to beat Hakeem Olajuwon and Robinson by a comfortable

Olajuwon was second at 27.8 and Robinson third at

On April 24, 1994, Robinson scored 71 points against the Clippers to deny O'Neal his first scoring title.

This season, 71 points in the final game would have behind O'Neal.

"I'm just glad my team has confidence in me." O'Neal said Sunday after the Magic lost 113-99 to the New York Knicks. "It means I'm consistent and my hard work has

O'Neal shrugged off criticism of paying too much attention to his acting and rap careers and too little to his basketball career. Though his field goal percentage drop-ped from 60 per cent to 58 per cent, it was still secondbest in the NBA and his offensive repetoire consisted

of more than dunks. His free-throw shooting, however, is another story and could prove damaging to the Magic in the playoffs. It dropped from 55 per cent in 1993-94 to 53 per cent this season, and his 1-for-6 from the line Sunday was a fitting

jury, suspension and personal leave, easily won his fourth straight rebounding crown. He had 16 rebounds in the Spurs' final game against Minnesota and finished with 16.8 per game, down from the 17.3 he averaged in 1993-94 and over four rebounds ahead of Denver's Dikembe Also repeating was

Utah's John Stockton and

San Antonio's Dennis Rod-

man continued dominating

their respective fields without

Stockton won his eighth

straight assists title, finishing

with 1,011 in 82 games for a 12.3 average. He had over

1,000 assists for the seventh

time in eight seasons and

averaged almost three more

assists than runner-up Kenny

Anderson of the New Jersey

Rodman, who missed 33

games this season due to in-

much competition. .

second striaght blocked shots title by swatting 3.9 per game. He blocked 4.1 sbots in 1993-94.

Golden State's Chris Gatling was the league's most accurate shooter from the field, hitting 63 per cent of his

Sacramento's Spud Webb. who shot \$1 per cent from the free-throw line last season, hit 93 per cent of his shots. Mark Price of Cleveland was second at 91 per cent.

Scottie Pippen of Chicago was the steals leader with 2.94, after finishing second last season with 2.93.

Steve Kerr of Chicago and Detlef Schrempt of Seattle were separated by .001 for the league's most accurate 3-point shooter before Sunday's games. When Kerr shot 1-for-3 and Schrempf was 1for-6 Sunday, Kerr won 52 per cent to 51.

Baseball players are back but owners return worry if fans will

are slashing early-season ticket prices, letting kids in sume hallparks for free and putting hudget-priced meals on the menu. They might even deploy players near the concession stands to autograph scorecards.

Baschall owners are clearly worried whether fans will embrace the game again.

The hitter 232-day strike snuffed out what was shaping up as a potentially classic season last August. It ended a home run record chase. wiped out the World Series and delayed the start of this season by three weeks.

Players ended their strike March 31 only after a court nrder furced owners to adhere to the terms of the expired collective bargaining

With opening games slated to begin Tuesday night, the commissioner's office unan attempt to reclaim fans'

NEW YORK (AP) - Teams, affection, "Welcome to the show" is the theme. But the 28 teams will have

to demonstrate why the sport

that left its followers stranded last summer deserves another Many teams are discount-

ing prices for opening day, some for the opening weekend and others for selected dates through May.

But even with discounted prices as low as \$2 for some seats, only about 24,000 tickets had been sold in the 50,000-capacity Houston Astrodome with only days remaining before the Astrus

"No doubt it is going to require some special effort to get the (ans back," team spokesman Tyler Barnes.

The Kansas City Royals are giving away 5,000 general admission tickets to their first veiled a new national adver- four home games and as tising campaign last week in many as 35,000 meal coupuns to reserved ticket holders at those games. It planned an open house this weekend so fans should see the newlysodded field-replacing the old artificial turf - the clubhouse and the dugouts. We understand the fans

have gone through a lot of pain over the past eight months." Royals spokesman Steven Fink said. The Pittsburgh Pirates cut

ticket prices in half for games through May 11, and is offering discounts on parking and concessions. Pirates players will be

more accessible at the park and make more appearances in the community such as at little league games. Greenherg said.

The Boston Red Sox cut prices in half to its first four games and marketing chief Lawrence Cancro sais (ans will find Fenway Park "more family friendly with haby changing tables and lowerpriced kid's meals. The Los Angeles Dodgers

rolled prices back to 1958

levels - their first year in Los Angeles — for opening night. That means tickets will go for \$1.50 to \$3.50 a seat compared with the regular rate of \$6 to \$13.

The California Angels will give away prizes every inning on opening day when re-served seats will be available for \$1. The game will mark the 35th anniversary of the inception of the Angels.

Sixty little leaguers will be on the field to throw out the first pitches at the Milwaukee Brewers' home opener. The Brewers will give opening day ticket holders a coupon good for a free ticket for any one of the live Monday night games on the schedule.

The New York Yankees and Mets and the Chicago White Sox are also offering discounts on some earlyseason tickets and meals.

Team executives hope the game's classic appeal will winhack fans on its own as the season progresses.

Fun time begins for NBA foes

ference between the National Basketball Association's 82game regular season and the upcoming playoffs in one

"Now the fun starts," he

The league playoffs begin Thursday and Friday with the opening games in best-offive, first-round series. After that, the NBA quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals are best-of-seven affairs.

In the East, second seed Indiana plays host to Atlanta and third seed New York faces Cleveland on Thursday. Top seed Orlando opens at home to Boston on Friday while Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls visit fourth seed Charlotte.

In the West, NBA overall record leader San Antonio plays host to Denver on Friday, the same night second seed Phoenix plays host to Portland On Thursday, third seed Utah bosts reigning champion Houston and fourth seed Seattle bosts the Los Angeles Lakers.

Following are capsule previews of the first-round matchups:

Eastern Conference Orlando (57-25) vs.

Boston (35-47) The Magic won three of five over Boston in the regular season and never lost a home game to an Eastern Conference foe. But they had a losing road record land struggled near the end of the season. Shaquille O'Neal led

PHOENIX (AFP) — Charles
Barkley summed up the difand was third m rebounds with 11.4 a game. But weak free throw shooting (54 per cent) makes him a late-game liability. Sherman Douglas and Dino Radia offer some playmaking for the Celtics, but Orlando has Anfernee Hardaway to direct the attack, Horace Grant to help underneath and the depth to

Chicago (47-35) vs. Char-lotte (50-32)

Michael Jordan makes the Bulls a favourite, but they will be tested. The teams split four regular-season meetings. Alonzo mourning and Larry Johnson give the Hornets inside power. Their challenge will be stopping Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Toni Kukoc and B.J. Armstrong. Luc Longley could be a key to success against Charlotte's big men. No team in the playoff wants to be in Jordan's path.

Indiana (52-30) vs. Atlanta

The Pacers bave become a true title threat behind Dutch center Rik Smits, long-range shooter Reggie Miller and the rebound work of Dale Davis and Antonio Davis. The Hawks struggled after trades before coming together late in the season. Mookie Blaylock's quickness gives the Hawks their best bope, but the Pacers took four of five meetings this

> Cleveland (43-39) vs. New York (55-27)

The teams split four

regular-season contests. Cleveland's slow-down style produced the worst offense and best defence in the league. They will annoy and could stun the Knicks, who will need a strong effort from Patrick Ewing. If the Cavaliers control the tempo as they like, look for last-second tbrillers that work against New York.

Western Conference

Denver (41-41) vs. San Antonio (62-20)

The Spurs boast the NBA's best record, league repound leader Dennis Rodman (27.8 a game) and number three scorer David Robinson (27.6 points plus 10.8 rebounds a game). The Nuggets hattled to the season's final day be-fore securing a playoff bid. of Dan Majerle. Portland has Otis Thorpe and Rod Strick land and 13 straight seasons in the playoffs, but their best days are behind them - a fate phoenix faces if they do not bring home a title This

Utah (60-22) vs. Houston (47.

Utah beat the reignin champions in three of five meetings and their playoff series could similarly go the limit. Karl Malone's inside work and NBA career assist leader John Stockton's passing make the Jazz a true title. threat. The Rockets are powered by make the Jazz a true title threat. The Rockets' are powered by Hakeen Olajuwon (27-g points, 10.8

PLAYOFF ANALYSIS

But they ousted Seattle last year in the first round when the SuperSonics had the league's top record. Dikembe Mutombo (12.5 rebounds) should have great duels with Robinson, but the Spurs won four of five season meetings and look too tough to falter

Phoenix (59-23) vs. Portland (44-38)

The Snns swept five games with Portland and bave a team bungry for a title. They beld off a late challenger from Seattle for the Pacific Division crown and feature Charles Barkley's 23 points a game plus the long-range skill rebounds) and Clyde Drexler (21.g points). This will be a

Seattle (57-25) vs. Los Angeles Lakers (48-34)

Seattle have something to prove after losing to Denver in last year's first round. Unfortunately, they face a club that beat them four out of five in the regular season. The Sonics will need superior efforts from Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton to outlast a rebuilt Lakers' team paced by Nick Van Exel. The Lakers want to show they are a team of the future. The Sonics need to show they are a team

Papers decry Foreman verdict

BONN (AP) — Several German and British newspapers claimed Monday that German Selver April Shulls man man fighter Axel Shulz was robbed in his controversial points decision loss to IBF heavyweight champion

George Foreman. "The greatest surprise in beavyweight bistory was pre-vented by a wrong decision," said the conservative national newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine. "Schulz won the fight against the boxing legend after 12 glorious rounds, but not the fight

against the judges." "Axel, you are the real winner," said the headline in Bild, Germany's biggest-

selling newspaper.
"Foreman had the judges on his side. Perpahs Axel couldn't win because the wbole of America is waiting for the Tyson-Foreman

fight," Bild said.
The Cologne Express, another tabloid, had the strongest words. "Fixed." said its banner front-page beadline. "Boxing scandal in Las Vegas. Axel is the robbed hero.

Foreman was declared the winner of Saturday night's fight in Las Vegas on a majority points decision. Some German papers

reacted with restraint. The respected Sueddeutsche Zeitung said Schulz had not done enough to dethrone

Foreman. "You can't win on points against Foreman, at least not in America, where he is an economic factor," the Municb-based national news-

"And according to the law of professional boxing, you can't really even talk about a false decision. The challenger bas to attack all the time. punch hard, and he must be better in all ways to beat the champion. Schulz was great. but he wasn't so overwhelmingly better," the newspap-

All German newspapers agreed that with a lucrative Foreman fight against Mike Tyson possibly shaping up, Schulz needed a knockout victory to take the title.



Arantxa Sanchez

WTA rankings released

1. Steffi Graf (Ger)

MIAMI (AFP) — Croatia's Iva Majoli tumbled three places in the WTA rankings released here Monday, falling from 13th to 16th posi-

Moving up one place each s a result of Majoli's lost points from 1994 play were new number 13 Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands, number 14 Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan and 15th-ranked Amy Frazier of the United

The remainder of the top 20 was unchanged, with number one Steffi Graf set to extend her lead over number two Arantxa Sanchez next week because of points dropped from last year.

Such original "Dream

Team" as Michael Jordan.

Magic Johnson. Charles

Barkley and Scottie Pippen

will be considered when the

Olympic roster is chosen from among the NBA's top-

3. Mary Pierce (Fra) 4. Conchita Martinez (Sna) 5. Jana Nevotna (Cze) 6. Lindsay Davemport (USA)
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Arg) 8. Kimiko Date (Jpn) 9. Magdalena Maleeva (Bul) IO. Natalia Zvereva (Blr) II. Anke Hinber (Ger) 12. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) 13. Breada Schultz (Ned) 14. Naoko Sawamatsu (Jpn) 15. Amy Frazier (USA) 16. Iva Majoli (Cro) 17. Lori McNeil (USA) 18. Julie Halard (Fra) 19. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa) 20. Helena Sukova (Cze)

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Wilkens to guide U.S. basketball Olympics

ATLANTA (AFP) — Lenny Wilkens, the winningest coach in National Basketball Association (NBA) history, was named coach of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team here Monday by USA Baskethall. And the 1992 U.S. Olym-

pic "Dream Team" assis-

tant coach might not he the

only repeater from Barcelo-

na here for U.S. team next

year (or the centennial Olympic Games.

"I don't have any indication Michael will play or wants to play." Wilkens said. "It's a little premature right now. Certainly we will not averlook players who have played in the past."

That was not the case when selecting players for last year's U.S. World Championships roster, duhbed "Dream Team II."

"We opted in 1994 nut to have repeat players from the 1992 team." USA Baskethall president C.M .-Newton said. "That's not the case with this team. It will truly he open to every player.

That includes Johnson,

who played in Barcelona after retiring from the NBA once he was diagnosed with the virus which causes AIDS. Johnson has already said he wants to be a part of the 1996 Olympic squad.

the 1996 Olympic squad. "It's great you see players want to be a part of this, Wilkens said. "They all want to compete and represent the USA, But it will be a decision made by the USA selection commit-

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AYOFF ANALYSIS

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NBA foes Draft' 95 gives NFL another of Das Mejerle, Porting in the playoff, Dut Meje

Cab (60-22) 75, House draft is becoming the year of the quarterback in its own

the hear the leight Four more quarterbacks -Rob Johnson of Southern Chad May of Kansas State, Dave Barr of Califormia and Steve Stenstrom of Spandford - were taken in the fourth round as the draft resumed Sunday.

Jay Barker of Alabama trans the property of went in the fifth. Jerry Colquitt of Tennessee and Craig Whelihan of Pacific went in the sixth. And John Walsh of Brigham Young was taken in the seventh and final round. one that ended with Carolina taking Michael Reed, a deand Clyde Day fensive back from Boston

With six quarterbacks chosen in the first three rounds on Saturday, Sunday's calls brought the total for the draft to 14, compared to nine in seven rounds last year and eight in eight rounds two years ago, the first time. the draft was trimmed from 12 rounds.

That wasn't unexpected this was supposed to be a year when there were more quarterbacks available than in the past. In fact, Johnson. May and Walsh were considered possible late firstrounders at some point,

That left them wondering. "I thought something was wrong with me," said Johnson, who completed 67 per cent of his passes for 2,210 vards at Sonthern Cal last

the first pick of the fourth round, and pulled out a book

by Bill Walsh to discover why. "I needed answers," Johnson said. "No one was giving me any answers." The same went for may,

the 111th overall pick by Minnesota. "I didn't sleep last night, I was tossing and turning," he said.

"I just wanted an explanation. I wish somebody would have called me and told me why I fell so far. It was a shock. It was the worst day of The quarterbacks weren't

the only players chosen in the fourth round who tumbled. Two wide receivers, Lovell Pinkney of Texas and Jack Jackson of Florida, both considered possible firstrounders, went on consecutive pieks to St. Louis and Chicago. Their problems? Squabbles with coaches and teammates that lowered their value in the eyes of scouts.

"A pain in the butt to his teammates and a bigger pain to the opposition." Icel Buchsbaum, one of the leading professional draftniks. wrote of Jackson.

Among the other notables to go in the first round of the second day were guard Rich Zatechka of Nebraska, chosen by the New York Giants, and Pete Mitchell, the Boston College tight end taken by Miami, Mitchell, considered too small and too

slow, catches everything in sight and may turn out to be like a Dan Marino target of a decade ago, Joe Rose, who used to catch the crucial 9yard pass on third-and-8.

Illinois linebacker Dana Howard, and all-America the last two years, was taken late ion the fifth round by Dallas, probably because he's only 6-foot and Chad Cota, Oregon's star safety, was taken on the first piek of the seventh round by Carolina.

The Raiders drafted offensive tackle Eli Herring of BYU in the sixth round, even though he said doesn't want to play professional football. Herring prefers to teach school and sent a letter to each NFL team, notifying them of his wishes.

"We're not going to try to talk him into playing," coach Mike White said, "We want to provide him an opportunity to play, if he changes his

But the most interesting development in a league where coaches bave been bemoaning the lack of quarterback was the slow but steady run on signal-callers.

After Steve McNair and Kerry Collins went to Houston and Carolina with the third and fifth pieks of the third round, there were two more in each of the oext two rounds. In order, they were Todd Collins of Miehigan to Buffalo, Kordell Stewart of Colorado to Pittsburgh. Stoney Case of New Mexico to Arizona and Eric Zeier of

Georgia to Cleveland.

European Soccer Championship

favoured to win Portugal's new generation

PARIS (AFP) - In-form Portugal, who visit Eire on Wednesday, are tipped by many football experts to carry on a special sequence and win the European Cham-

pionship. The last three winners -France (1984). Holland (1988) and Denmark (1992) - bad, like Portugal, never won a major international trophy.

But four wins out of four for a 100 per cent record onder coach Antonio Oliveira gives some argument to Portugal's championship winning potential.

Paulo Sousa, Juventus' 24year-old midfielder, believed Portuguese football is definitely on a high right now." He said excellent youth schemes at Sporting, Porto and Benfica are now bearing fruit in the national team.

As less foreigners fill up Portugal's top teams, there was more opportunity for bomegrown youngsters, Sousa said, adding "As a result, our national team is very strong and I believe we can achieve many things in the coming years."

Fiorentina's Rui Costa and Parma's Fernando Couto are, like Sousa, proving the pedigree of Portugal's new genera-

Bad news for Eire is the absence of Roy Keane, who has an ankle gasb and an

abdominal problem. In other matches, Didier Deschamps, Vincent Guerin, and Zinedine Zidane return to France's squad for the Group One match against Slovakia at Nantes.

France are unbeaten, but, with four goalless draws in five matches, are in third spot behind leaders Romania and second-placed Israel. Israel welcome back Mac-

cabi Haifa defender Marco Balbul, suspended for the 0-0 draw against France last month. Israel's visit to Poland is the only Tuesday match of the week's 23 fix-

Romania's Florin Raducioiu, who scored in their 2-1 win against Poland last month, leads the attack at Azerbaijan.

Spain's winning four-match winning run in Group 2 ended in a 1-1 draw at bome to Belgium in March. But a win in Armenia should virtually guarantee Spain's place in next year's finals in England. Valencia fullback Jorge

Otero replaces Albert Ferrer, who was injured playing for Barcelona on Sunday.

Belgium, who host Cyprus, appear to be fading off the

scene and risk failing to qualify for their third finals running. European champions Denmark entertain Macedonia io an attempt to improve on third place.

Ron Hodgson's Switzerland welcome Turkey in a top-of-the-table Group 3 clash, while third-placed Sweden visit Hungary. Switzerland, who were

trailing 2-0 with just 18 minutes left and managed to force a 2-2 draw away to Hungary, continue to dominate with ten points from four But Swiss striker Nestor

Subiat is out for three weeks after tearing his thigh muscle playing for Swiss Grasshoppers in a Swiss eup match.

Sweden will be without defender Joachim Biorkland wbo was sent off in their 2-1 loss to Turkey last month. Bjorkland threw a punch in a scuffle involving goalkeeper Tomas Ravelli and Turkey's Sukur Hakan.

Roberto Baggio makes his return to the Italian squad, which visits Lithuania in Group 4. Baggio made himself unavailable for last mooth's two wins in five days over Ukraine and Estonia because of lack of form.

A further win by Italy would put their 2-1 loss on

Nov. 13 at home to Croatia Liechtenstein in other Group further into the background. 6 matches. Davor Suker, who scored those two goals against Italy,

is set to lead the attack of group leaders Croatia at home 10 Slovenia. Estonia welcome Ukraine in the other Group 4 fixture.

Group 5 leaders Norway play their second match in a row against Luxembourg this time at home.

Holland, in second spot two points behind Norway, have a potentially decisive match at third-placed Czech Republic. Belarus battle against Malta though realistically the fight is only to avoid the wooden spoon.

Eire host Portugal, who bave four wins from four matche, in a top-of-the-table Group 6 clash.

Eire will want to make up for conceding two points after a defensive mishap allowed Northern Ireland's lain Dowie an equaliser last

Northern Ireland travel to Latvia and Austria host

Arsenal's Steve Morrow, who has an ankle injury, is the sixth Northern Ireland player to be ruled out -Gary Fleming, Phil Gray, Jim Magilton, Michael O'Neill and Gerry Taggart are the others.

Jurgen Klinsmann is set to skipper his second European championship match, at home to wales, in the continued absence of Achilles-Tendon victim and usual captain Lothar Matthaus.

Defenders Thomas Helmer and Jurgen Kohler will miss the Group 7 fixture through injury.

Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, who has pulled a hamstring, will not be available to help Wales end their worst run in 26-years. Wales have lost four in a row and are bottom of the group.

Bulgaria, who like Germany, have won four matches out of four, travel to Moldova, while third-placed Georgia host Albania.

If Halen's bidding was a little ec-centric at times, it only added to the

problems her opponents had when

they played against her. Technically, she was superb and could manu-

an example of her style, from a matchpoint pair event at the 1934 Fall Nationals.

Helen and her partner reached five clubs in an accurate if unscien-tific manner. It did have the advan-

Young America regains speed edge

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The mermaid boat Young America regained its speed edge on Monday, keeping itself and new ally Mighty Mary alive and Mr. America's Cup on hold.

Young America led the whole way to beat Stars and Stripes by 52 seconds in the defender finals, reducing Dennis Conner's ehances of reaching the America's Cup

A victory by Stars and Stripes would have put Conner back in the America's Cup finals for the first time in seven years. Conner must now beat

America3's mostly women crew aboard Mighty Mary on Tuesday in order to reach the America's Cup match against Team New Zealand beginning May 6. If not, the round will finish in a three-way tie and Young America and Mighty Mary will have a

sudden-death sailoff Wednesday to determine the U.S.

defender. Connet, a four-time America's Cup winner, would get knocked out of a three-say tie because he got no bonus points under the back-room deal that made this a threeboat final. Young America came in with two bonus

points and Mighty Mary one. Stars and Stripes and five points apiece, while Mighty Mary has four. The last time Conner

hoisted the America's Cup was in 1988, when he turned back New Zealand's Rogue Challenge.

Monday's race was the first for the slumping Young America since the wings were removed from its rudder in an attempt to survive in light-Young America are tied with er wind and smoother seas.

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way production of the Mark Broth-ers Animal Grackers who, as Helen Sobbi, paired up with Charles Goren

to become one of the most feared partnerships of the 1940s and 1950s.

tage of revealing nothing about her holding. There was no problem making 11 tricks, but since this was

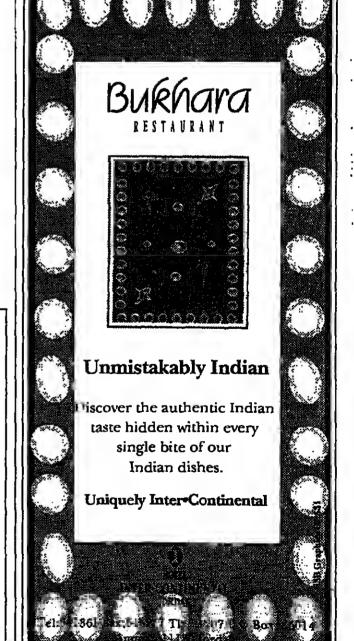
Pass 2 d Pass Pass 5 d Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of &
Women's bridge is stronger now
than at any time in the game's history. Not just in the U.S., but in several European countries and, recently,
in Asia, the women's star also is on
the rise. If you were to sak as who we the rise. If you were to ask us who we think is the greatest woman player of all time, however, our vote would go to the slim chorine in the Broad-

Without a moment's hesitation Helen played a low spade from dummy at trick one. This play could not cost, since a diamond loser could always be discarded later on a high spade. As Helen expected, East's queen won and the jack of diamonds was fired back.

Thelaward kings sum the acc was

was fired back.

Declarer's king won, the ace was cashed and trumps were drawn in two rounds. The ace and king of spades were cashed for a diamond discard, a diamond was ruffed in the closed hand and, when the suit split evenly, the board's trump was the many for declarer to putch her losing heart on the 13th diamond. The coestrick netted a ton acces. overtrick netted a top score.



Real close in on Spanish title PARIS (AFPI - Real Mad- Croatia's Alen Boksic and

rid moved closer to wrapping up their first Spanish title in four years while six German clubs led by Borussia Dortmund and Werder Bremen kept the suspense alive in the

In Italy, the one-horse race was widened with six games to go when Parma beat Inter Milan: 3-11 to move within eight points of leaders Juvenwho lost at home to Padova.

Parma's Swedish striker Thomas Brolin, who broke his ankle playing for Sweden against Hungary five months ago, returned to the side who ere deprived through injury of Colombian striker Fausti-

no Asprilla. Argentina sweeper Nestor Sensini scored twice in each half and Gianfranco Zola added the third to condemn Inter to their first defeat in 10

Juventus, attempting to win the title for the first time since 1988, were beaten at home for the first time this season, losing 1-0 to a 74th minute free-kick from Padova's 24-year-old Dutch midfielder Michel Kreek.

Juventus are still on course

for an imprecedented treble of Italian league. Italian Cup and UEFA Cup. Their oponnents in the final of both cups will be Parma. who eliminated Bayer Leverkusen in midweek in the

UEFA Cup while Juvenius disposed of Borussia Dori-Roma, reduced to 10 men after the sending off of cup-tain Giuseppe Giannini, fell to their first defeat in six games against Lazio. Lazio were without



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Elvie F. Ogasna, a national of the Philippines, left the residence of her employer on 24 April 1995 without permission or notice. Any one with information on her whereabouts should contact the nearest police station. All those withholding information or covering for her shall be responsible under Jordanian law.

Dutchman Aron Winter, on international duty in the coming weck, but Giuseppi Signori, top scorer in the league for the past two seasons, returned from injury.

He scored a 70th minute penalty after striker Pierluigi Casiraghi had hit the first goal in the 39th minute. Meanwhile Ruud Gullit.

scorer of both goals in Sampdoria's 2-2 draw with Fiorentina, made clear his unhappiness with the side who lost on penalties to Arsenal in the midweek European Cup Winners Cup semi-final.

Sampdoria are out of the running for a European place next season and the former Dutch and AC Milan star. hack after a six-week injury lay-off, said: The attitude is wrong here. I am not pointing the finger at individuals hut some players who should examine their consciences."

In Spain. Real Madrid surged seven points clear in the Spanish title race with eight games to go when rivals Deportivo Coruna were held to a 2-2 draw by 10-man

A goal by Prosinecki five minutes from time robbed Deportive of maximum points after Salinas and Bebeto had given the home side a 2-0 lead at half-time.

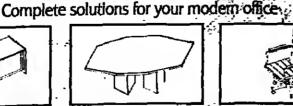
Oviedo had Armando sent off at the start of the secondhalf, but it did not ston Janokovic putting the visitors back in the hunt with a goal in the 49th minute.

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Saturdays & Sundays

30 including 9 Israeli soldiers injured in Lebanon resume Cairo talks

(AFP) - A Hizbollah suicide carbombing and rocket attack on Israeli troops wounded about 30 people including at least nine soldiers in South Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said.

The suicide bomber struck as an army convoy was entering the Israeli security services huilding in this town in the Israeli-occupied border "security zone."

It was the first Hizbollah suicide car bombing against Israeli troops in sonthern Lehanon since 1986.

An Israeli army spokesman said nine troops were wounded, including one seriously. Security sources said helicopters had evacuated at least 10 soldiers, three of them in serious condition.

Twenty other people, in-cluding two pro-Israeli milinamen, were also hart in the hombing and when four Katyusha rockets fired by guerrillas struck the scene of the attack, the sources said.

Israeli officials said seven Lebanese civilians were wounded when mortar shells

One of them was seriously

Israeli gunners retaliated by pounding viliages outside the zone with around 100 shells, a security source said.

"A car packed with more than 100 kilometres of explosives crashed against the security services building as an Israeli military convoy was entering," the source said.

The convoy was made up of two jeeps, two civilian cars and three armoured troop

Hizbollah claimed the attack saying in Beirut: "Our combatant-martyr rammed his explosives-packed car into the convoy causing a large number of victims among the Israeli soldiers.

A building housing the Israeli civilian administration was destroyed and a key Israeli army barracks was heavily damaged, the spokesman added

The blast was heard seven kilometres away and shattered windows in the town of Bint Ibeil.

It triggered panic as streets

Israel and PLO

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Orga-nisation (PLO) and Israel began a new round of talks in Cairo on Tuesday on long-delayed Palestinian elections which would focus on allowing residents of Arab East Jerusalem not only to vote but to stand as candidates.

"We're now facing a crucial issue which is the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem in the elections. It is time to reach an agreement on this issue. Participation means to us having voters, candidates and polling boxes in Jerusalem," Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian delegation, told

The Israeli delegation, headed by Yoel Singer, had no immediate comment.

Reuters.

A Palestinian negotiator confirmed secret talks were going on between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the key issue of redeploying Israeli troops away from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank to allow elections

here of her True Path Party

that Turkey's cross-border

raid amounted to self-

defence. "We gave a great

lesson to those who declared

a liberated zone in this area,

Ms. Ciller warned that

Turkey would strike back in

northern Iraq If the rebels

attempted to renew their

up to local Iraqi Kurds to

maintain the border security.

Ms. Ciller said the govern-

ment will also take measures.

on Tuesday that Turkey was

installing an electronic net-

work to monitor the border.

The cost of the project was estimated around \$120 mil-

lion, to be completed hy the

As part of the army's step-

ped up campaign to crack

downs on the rebels inside

were killed in Tunceli and

anotther one in Batman dur-

ing the clashes on Tuesday.

the regional governor's office

About 20,000 soldiers,

backed by jetfighters, have

been waging an offensive against the rebel hideouts in

the mountains of Tunceli.
Ms. Ciller said 320 rebels

were killed in southeastern

Turkey over the past six

more rebei

end of the year.

JUTK

weeks.

The daily Milliyet reported

but she did not elaborate.

Turkey bas said it will be

Israel wants Palestinians in Jerusalem to elect candidates from outside their constituency but not to stand in the

"This is unacceptable, unreasonable and illogical because participation means participation of voters and runners. We baven't heard in history that people voted in elections without having their own representatives," Dr. Erakat added.

He said Israel, which insists that the issue be tackled when the final status of Jerusalem is negotiated in 1996, should distinguish between the two "different issues."

So far, Dr. Erakat said, Israel and the PLO have agreed on the structure of the elected Palestinian council and on its judicial, executive

and legislative powers.

An accord has virtually been reached on international supervision of the polls by the United States, the European Union, Russia, Canada, Japan, Jordan, Egypt and Norway, he said.

Bahrain

man in

unrest

sentences

Sharif Zeid in Tunis to chair joint panel

Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker arrived here Tuesday at the head of a Jordanian ministerial delegation to attend the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian

Higher Committee. Welcoming the prime minister and the Jordanian delegation was Dr. Hamed Al Qarawi, the Tunisian prime minister, with whom Sharif Zeid is cochairing the two-day higher committee meeting.

"Tunisia and Jordan are bound by ties of friendship and have common economic and social interests and both are oriented towards democrcy," said Dr. Qarawi in welcoming Sharif Zeid. He said that the higher

committee will direct its attention towards encouraging businessmen and investments from Jordan and Tunisia to launch joint economic

Sharif Zeid said that Jordan was keen on developing bilateral ties and promoting cooperation with Tunisia in all fields.

The committee meeting is

TUNIS (Petra) - Prime expected to end with the signing of several agreements on promoting trade and econo-

Vargas liosa receives Spain's couragement of investments. The agreements are designed to increase the volume

ter Salameh Hammad, Minister of Tourism Abul Ilah Khatib and other officials. Upon their departure the Jordanian delegation were

seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Karaki and other senior government offi-

mic cooperation and en-

of trade between the two

countries and open the way

for closer economic coopera-

meeting of the joint technical

committee which prepared

the agenda for the talks start-

Sharif Zeid is accompanied

by Minister of State for Prime

Ministry Affairs Ibrahim

Izzedin, Minister of Trans-

port Samir Kawar, Minister

of Industry and Trade Ali

Abul Ragheb, Interior Minis-

ng later Tuesday.

The meeting preceded by

Mubarak: Peace faces 'enormous difficulties'

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak warned Tuesday that the Middle East peace process is facing "enor-mous difficulties" and urged all parties to try harder to end the stalemate in negotiations.

Mr. Mubarak also renewed Egypt's demand that the Middle East rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction. He made the remarks in a

nationwide address on the anniversary of Israel's 1982 withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula, which the Jewish state had occupied in the 1967 Middle East war,
"The peace process is

going through enormous difficulties, which ring warning bells unless all (parties) realise the risks and unless the clements of logic prevail and reason triumphs." Mr. Mubarak said in his televised

He specifically mentioned Israeli-Syrian negotiations, which have been stalemated for weeks.

"It has become obvious hut the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, according to the principle of all territory for complete peace," Mr. Muharak said.

He mentioned "stalemate and obstinacy" as the main obstacles to reaching a solution, leading to frustration and disappointment in the

Mr. Muharak said the Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979, the first between an Arab country and the Jewish state, should serve as a model for others. On the nuclear issue, Mr.

Mnbarak again urged Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is being reviewed at a conference in New York.

Israel, the only country in the region with nuclear weapons, has said it will not sign until there are no threats from Lihya, Iran and Iraq.

live in the age of peace while we still feel the burden of war, hatred, doubts and fear," Mr. Mubarak said.

to create a crisis and make new demands, but we need proof of goodwill, which will create a new Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Mnbarak said in the

expected progress on the stalled Israel-Syrian track of the peace process despite "remaining obstacles. There was "no alternative"

to Israel returning all of the Golan Heights to Syria as part of a peace deal, and that the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon should also not be overlooked, he added. Mr. Mubarak said Egypt

He said the project would create a million jobs, cost 70 hillion Egyptian pounds (\$20 billion) and bring three mil-lion people into the desert area over the next 23 years. There are only about 160,000 inhabitants in the region at the moment.

'It is not logical that we

He added: "We don't want

televised speech that Egypt

was in the middle of a major

project to "rebuild the four corners of the Sinai and to bring the waters of the Nile there in the next few years to irrigate an immense area of this territory."

Israel completed its withdrawal from the Sinai on April 25, 1982, six months before Mr. Mnbarak came to power. In 1987 Egypt finally recovered the seaside resort of Taba in the far east of Sinai after international arbitration.

Judge seeks quick decision on death penalty in NY trial

penalty for new charges against the alleged master-mind of the World Trade

confirmed Monday that the defendant, Ramzi Yousef, made a statement after his February arrest in Pakistan. The judge ordered prosecutors to turn them over to the defence.

with experience in death Mr. Duffy said.

Mr. Duffy did not say what kind of statements Yousef made or whether they were similar to a lengthy statement Yousef released last month in which he said attacks against the United States were legal because of U.S. support for Israel.

centre attack, the fatal plane bombing and plots to bomh U.S. passenger planes. No

planes that was described by anthorities after Murad was brought to the United Statse from the Philippines last Mr. Duffy told Murad's

new court-appointed lawyer, Brian Barrett, that his chent was not charged in the trade centre bombing but that pro-secutors were alleging he was "up to his ears" in the plot against U.S. aircraft.

the airplane plots and one for Yousef in the trade centre bombing. Neither would likely start before the fail.

offered a \$2 million reward for information leading to the capture of Yousef, who left the United States the night of Feb. 26, 1993, hours after a bomh killed six people and injured more than 1,000 others at the trade centre.

Cervantes Prize ALCALA DE HENARES Spain (AP) - Calling literature his "first and greatent love." Peruvian novelist

Mario Vergas Ilosa was honoured Monday with Spain's Cervantes Prize, considered the most prestigious literary award in the Spanish. speaking world. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia presented the award to the 59-year-old writer in a ceremony in the university of Alcala De Henares, the birthplace of Miguel De Cervantes. "Literature has been my first and greatest love, the most beloved of servitudes, Mr. Vargas Ilosa said in an acceptance speech for the award, which includes a 15million-peseta (\$120,000) cash prize. He cited writers from round the world as influences, beginning with Cervantes, whose Don Quixote is considered the first modern novel. The award is presented each year on April 23, the anniversary of Cervantes' death in 1616. The winner was announced last November. Mr. Vargas Ilosa, who also holds Spanish citizenship, published his first novel, an account of life in a Peruvian military academy. in 1963 - "La Ciudad Y Los Perros" (known in English as The Time Of The Hero). Other well-known works incinde "Los Cachorros" (The Cubs and Other Stories), "La Tia Julia Y El Escribidor" (Aunt Julia And The Scriptwriter), and "Conversation En La Catedral" (Conserva-tion In The Cathedral).

Winnie Mandela released from clinic

JOHANNESBURG (AP) -Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of President Nelson Mandela, was released from the hospital Monday after being treated for diabetes. Mrs. Mandela appeared to be in good condition and would be monitored hy her physicians, said Chantal Coetzer, spokeswoman for Linksfield Park Clinic. Mrs. Mandela was admitted nearly a week ago for tests and rest. Doctors found that she was suffering from diabetes — an electrolyte imbalance that was affecting her kidneys, hlood pressure and blood sugar. Mrs. Mandela was fired on March 28 from her post as deputy minister for arts, culture, science and technology. She challenged her husband's decision in court on technical grounds. She was rehired only to be fired again after Mr. Mandela consulted an opposition party leader, a constitutional requirement he had previously neglected, Mrs. Mandela resigned before the firing was to have become official.

winner Nikita Mikhalkov injured In car crash MOSCOW (AP) — Sergei

Mikhalkov, co-anthor of the Soviet national anthem and the father of Oscar-winning filmmaker Nikita Mikhalkov. was hospitalised with multiple injuries following a car accident Monday. The 82-year-old Mikhalkov was driving his Volvo in central Moscow when he crashed into the concrete wall of a tunnel, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. He suffered injuries to his head and chest. Mr. Mikhalkov, who has written poems and plays for children, won fame for the text of the Soviet antbem. Nikita Mikhalkov won the Oscar this year for the best foreign film for Burnt By The Sun-

Survey shows surge in cannabis use among teens

LONDON (AFP) - Nearlya third of British 15- and 16-year-old students admit to smoking cannabis, roughly six times more than in 1989. according to a survey published here Monday. More than 48,000 students between 11 and 16 years were surveyed nationwide last year by Exeter University's Schools Health Education Unit. In the 15-16 year group, 32.9 per cent of boys and 27.3 per cent of girls admitted trying the drug at least once. A similar survey in 1989 showed 5 per cent of boys and 3.5 per cent of girls in that age group said they had smoked canna-

Hariri could step down this year

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, architect of Lebanon's reconstruction, needs a rest and has decided not to stand for a second term, his close friend and defence minister was quoted on Tuesday as saying.

The remarks by Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul indicated that the 50-year-old billionaire tycoon, who has set Lebanon on the road to recovery from the 1975-90 civil war, would step down by the end of the year.

"According to my information Prime Minister Hariri has decided not to stand as a candidate for the formation the next government. It time for him to take some rest," newspapers quoted

Mr. Dalloul as saying. Mr. Hariri, who took office in October 1992, was in Paris on a private visit. Aides in Beirut would not immediate-

ly comment. There is no requirement for forming a new government before President Elias Hrawi's term end on Nov. 23. The incoming president must appoint a new cabinet.

Let the candidates for the office of prime minister prepare themselves. Now is their chance," Mr. Dalloul was quoted as saying. Mr. Hariri has been frus-

trated by divisions in his cahinet, allegations of profiteering and delays in getting parliamentary approval for his \$11.4 billion plan for infrastructure reconstruction over the next 10 years. He tried to resign last De-

cember, citing anger at politicians blocking his plans, but was persuaded to carry on hy Syrian leaders who have 35,000 troops in Lebanon and are the country's main power The December crisis

caused a \$340 million run on the Lebanese pound - costing the central bank 11 per cent of its foreign exchange reserves in two days trading as panic-stricken investors dumped the currency. Beirut foreign exchange

dealers said on Tuesday they did not expect another currency crisis, even if Mr. Dalloui's remarks proved to be

"Maybe investors will change from pounds to other currencies because many people believe Hariri and the stability of the foreign exchange market are 'linked.' said Talal Abou Zaki of Bank of Beirut and the Arab coun-

"But the Central Bank will intervene if Hariri is prime minister or not ... I don't think we will return to the instability we had before."

Another dealer who asked not to be identified reported increased demand for dollars hut said there was no danger of a serious run on the pound and he did not believe Mr.

Dailoul's remarks. "I believe this is a halloon .. we have got accustomed to these rumours." he said. "I don't think Hariri will go. My intuition is that even if he goes he would come back

Turkey says 20,000 soldiers withdrawn from north Iraq

dents cowering indoors fear-

flew at low altitude over

Nabatiyeh and Zahrani north

of the zone as well as the Hizbollah stronghold in the

Holicopter gunships circled

The attack came as Israeli

the zone where Israeli militia-

men stepped up roadblocks.

chief of staff General Amnon

Shahak warned there had

already been a "near doubl-

ing" this year in the number

of clashes between Israeli

forces and Hizbollah compared

with the start of 1994, and the

group planned to step up attacks.

"Not a single day goes by without Hizbollah launching

an attack and we record be-

tween 50 and 60 anti-Israeli

operations each month,

Gen. Shahak told the Israeli

parliament's defence and

Israeli troops have im-

foreign affairs committee.

posed a ban on motorists

driving solo in the "security

zone" since the 1985-1986

suicide car bombings.

Later Israeli warplanes

ing further violence.

Iqlim Al Tufah hills.

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey pulled out nearly two-thirds of its troops from northern Iraq five weeks into its offensive against Kurdish rehels, the military spokesman said

on Tuesday. Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu told a news conference that 20,000 troops, comprising five brigades, returned to their bases in Hakkari and Sirnak provinces on the bor-

State television showed soldiers, tanks and armoured personnel carriers, flying Turkish flags, crossing into Turkey from the Habur border post under heavy rain before dawn Tuesday. About 12,000 soldiers re-

main in northern Iraq. "The remaining troops will also return home when their mission is completed during the course of the operation; Col. Silahcioglu said. He did not say when that was ex-However, military analysts

could take longer as the rebels continued to challenge the army as late as Monday. Forty-one rebels and two soldiers were killed in a lash. Turkey sent 35,000 soldiers into Kurd-controlled north-

noted that a full withdrawal

ern Iraq to wipe out camps used for hit-and-run attacks by about 2,800 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels. The rebels have been fighting

CAIRO (AFP) - A Palesti-

nian American arrested in

Britain and sent back to the

United States as a suspect in

the Oklahoma carbombing

said Tuesday he was planning

to sue the British authorities

Ibrahim Ahmad told the

London-based Arabic daily

Al Sharq Al Awsat that he

was planning to sue the Brit-

ish authorities "for the humi-

liating and outrageous treat-

ment which was handed out

to me by the investigators"

don's Heathrow airport.

when he was stopped at Lon-

me 10 undress and 1 was

naked for four minutes.

They refused to give me any-

"The investigators forced

and the U.S. media.

for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984 in a war which has killed more than 15.000 people.

About 3,000 Turkish soldiers were withdrawn earlier this month. Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq are pro-tected by a U.S.-led allied air

force and are out of Iraq's ·U.S. officials had called for quick withdrawal last week during Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to Washington.

Dogu Ergil, a political scientist at Ankara University and expert on Kurdish affairs, said the remaining troops would be used to cut off transit routes in northern Iraq to protect the ongoing military campaign inside Tur-

Col. Silahcioglu did not say where the 20,000 soldiers had been deployed in northern Iraq. Local sources said ahbased in Darkarjan, the former Kurdish stronghold that was the first site attacked when the invasion began

Another withdrawal site was reported as Metina, 20 kilometres from the Turkish

The military said 505 rebels were killed since the start of

the offensive. Fifty-eight soldiers also have died. Ms. Ciller told a meeting

Jordan to reassure them," Ahmed added. He said the U.S. investigators in Chicago had been polite even though "one or two agents in the

immigration department mis-He added he was looking into whether to make an official complaint against "some American media who decided in the first hours after the explosion that I was the

main suspect." He said he hoped the Americans would realise that "terrorism has no one homeland or identity and it is not the work of Arabs or Muslims who are also victims of

terrorism. Mr. Ahmad was arrested last Wednesday after landing at Heathrow on a flight from

Wrong suspect in blast plan to sue Chicago and sent hack to the United States by the British authorities as a possible suspect in the bombing of a nine-storey federal building in Oklahoma City the same

He was later released by the U.S. authorities without On Tuesday the death toll seven days after the carbombing was at put 86 and rising as rescuers continued to search through the wreck-

age. More than 430 people were wounded. One man, Timothy McVeigh, faces charges in connection with the blast and is said to have links to a paramilitary extremist group. But investigators admitted Tuesday the main suspect still cluded them.

also due in Paris on

Wednesday along with

Israeli foreign ministry director general Uri Savir

and his finance ministry

counterpart David Brodet.

spokesman Danny Chek

Israeli foreign ministry

MANAMA (Agencies) — A Bahraini convicted of sabotage during the political unrest that has swept Bahrain since

December has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to an official statement published by newspapers Tuesday. The sentence handed down to garage mechanic Hussein Abbas Al Marhoon, 23, is the

first by the state security court, where more than 40 people accused of murder and sabotage are awaiting The sentence, prominently displayed in the island's three

dailies, said Mr. Marhoon was also fined 58,000 dinars (\$153,700), the cost of the damage he caused. The stiff sentence was widely seen as an indication that subsequent sentences are deter further unrest while authorities are conducting a dialgone with community lead-

ers to discuss protesters' demands. The official statement'said Mr. Marhoon told the investigating judge be was a member of a small group that had carried out acts of violence and sabotage to undermine Bahrain's security and sta-

The authorities have not yet announced indictments for the alleged masterminds of what officials say was a foreign-inspired plot to des-tabilise Bahrain, a key hanking and services centre in the

oil-rich Gulf. Mr. Marhoon was arrested for the Feb. 28 arson of a clubhouse in Sanabis, one of the Shiite Muslim villages around Manama which have heen the centre of the unrest

in recent weeks. Shiites make up more than 50 per cent of the indigenous 500,000-strong population and have long languished at the lower end of the social

The nots crupted early December amid demands by Shiite preachers for the restoration of the parliament that was dissolved in 1975 and for better job opportunities for some 30,000 mainly Shute unemployed.

thing to ear and did nor allow me to contact my family in Donors aim to unblock aid for Palestinians

PARIS (AFP) — International donors to the Palestinian National Authority are to meet here this week to try to unblock the flow of aid to the struggling economy in the selfrule areas, diplomats said

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said: "We will ask donor nations to honour their commitments" before leaving Cairo for the talks.

He added the Palestine Liheration Organisation (PLO) will also urge donor nations "to work towards paying off the deficit in the Palestinian budget, which amounts to 126 million dollars.

After the September 1993 signing of the declaration of principles donors pledged \$2.2 billion for the Palestinians over five

But Palestinians say only \$215 million bas been delivered out of a total \$720 million promised for 1994. Payments have been held up amid concern.

among some donor countries over the anthority's budget deficit. Delegations from the European Union, the United States, Russia, Japan, Sandi Arabia, Egypt and the World Bank are to meet in Paris with bilateral

sessions heginning

Wednesday and culminat-

ing in a plenary session on Friday. Diplomats said that an informal meeting could be held as early as Tuesday evening between experts from the U.S., EU, Japan, and Norway as well as Israeli and Palestinian

U.S. State Department

Coordinator for Middle

East Affairs Denis Ross is

negotiators.

has voiced optimism that the Paris talks could achieve a breakthrough in resolving the obstacles to international aid. But Dr. Shaath said international donors must also begin "implementing

areas" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added the PLO would try to bring pressure from the donor countries on Israel "to end the closure on the Gaza Strip." Israel eased a total closure on Monday allowing

Palestinian workers from

the self-rule Gaza Strip

and the occupied West

the projects they have

promised in the self-rule

Bank to enter the Jewish state for the first time in 10 But Palestinians say re-

maining security arrangements still threaten to choke the Gaza economy More than 100,000 Palestinians worked in Israel before tight restrictions were imposed two

years ago. Representatives from more than 30 donor countries met in Gaza last month to examine the distribution of funds in preparation for Thorsday's meeting.

manding transparent accounting procedures. Dr. Shaath, Finance Minister Mohammad Nashashibi and Economy Minister "Ahmad Qouriea are to meet with Israeli delegates in Paris on

Wednesday.

Donors have slowed the

disbursement of aid de-

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge directed prosecutors to decide quickly whether to seek the death

Centre bombing. Judge Kevin Duffy also

If prosecutors seek death for Yousef in the December bombing of a Philippines Airlines plane in which a passenger was killed, then a lawyer penalty cases must be added to Yousef's defence team.

Yousef's lawyer, Roy Kulcsar, said outside court that Yousef was not surprised the death penalty might be sought. Three men already convicted in the trade centre bombing were each sentenced to 240 years in prison hy Mr. Dnffy.

Mr. Duffy commented as Yousef was arraigned on a supersending indictment charging him with the trade

plea was taken. Yousef appeared in court along with Abdul Hakim Murad, his alleged accomplice in the plot to bomh U.S.

Mr. Duffy said he likely would conduct two trials, one for both of the defendants in

The United States had

Authorities say Yousef and Mnrad shared an apartment for two months in the Philippines until, authorities say, a January fire forced Yousef to flee, leaving behind bombing paraphernalia and a letter igned in the same way as a 1993 letter taking responsibility for the trade centre

Father of Oscar